

Thursday January 18 1996

Algeria D.B.50
Australia 1.25
Austria FF 10
Belgium FF 10
Canada C\$ 1.70
Czech Republic KC45
Denmark DK 15
France F 10
Germany DM 3.50
Greece G 500
Hong Kong HK\$ 25
Ireland P 100
Italy L 200
Japan Y 110
Korea W 100
Lithuania L 150
Luxembourg LF 55
Malaysia M 4.50
Netherlands D 10
New Zealand NZ 4.75
Norway NK 15
Oman O 500
Pakistan R 70
Peru S 2.70
Portugal P 200
Qatar QR 8.50
Russia R 200
Saudi Arabia R 10
Singapore S\$ 1.20
South Africa R 10
Spain P 220
Sweden S 16
Switzerland SF 3
Taiwan NT 120
Thailand TH 1.750
Turkey TL 100.000
USA US\$ 2.00
USA US\$ 2.75

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,452

The most audacious art theft of all
How to steal a masterpiece
Guardian 2 with European weather

OnLine
BT's not so interactive television service
G2 pages 10/13

Ken Livingstone on Arthur's breakaway
Why Scargill has got it wrong
This section page 9

Tories and CBI join argument over stakeholding
Union blow to Labour's 'big idea'

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S "big idea" for a stakeholder society faced its first serious challenge yesterday when a rift opened between the party and union leaders over the need for new laws enshrining workers' rights.



John Redwood: Stakeholding, 'this prospectus for ruin'

wisdom of launching its much interpreted stakeholding theme, but there were signs of unease that the slogan was becoming too narrowly associated with curbing shareholder power and handing greater rights to the unions in the workplace.

Fumes are keynote of car centenary event



Queen will not bail out duchess

Vivak Chaudhary

THE Duchess of York reported to have run up an overdraft of £1 million thanks to her lavish lifestyle, will not be bailed out by the Queen, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.



In the red

INCOME: £15,000 per year personal allowance from Prince Andrew. £100,000 from sale of interviews to Hello magazine.

Russian PM threatens all-out Chechen war

David Hearst in Moscow, James Meek near Pervomayskaya and Chris Nuttall in Ankara

RUSSIA'S prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, threatened last night to launch an all-out military offensive to end separatist resistance in Chechnya, as the related hostage crises in Dagestan, Turkey and the breakaway republic itself showed no sign of abating.

His form of words - identical to those used in December 1994, when the first Russian conquest of Chechnya was ordered - appeared to pre-empt another large-scale offensive, observers said.

With these words, Angel Koyuntzi, aged 35, took off her fake fur coat in front of a 1,000-strong congregation in Coventry Cathedral to reveal her naked body covered only by slogans reading: "17 Million Dead - Forgive Us" and "Reforest the Earth - The Goddess is the Mother of the Nation."

Godiva displays naked fury at cathedral service

Gary Younge

IN THE spirit of Lady Godiva, I'm here to mourn the death of my mother and the 17 million people killed directly by the motor car.

who were all dressed in black. Inside, the Very Rev John Petty, provost of Coventry Cathedral, called on the congregation to ask God for forgiveness for "the greed which lays waste the earth."

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Sketch

Grylls stake and silicone chips



Simon Hoggart

TRADE and industry questions are never too exciting, so my thoughts strayed to the names of the MPs who were in attendance. Paddy Tipping (Lab, Sherwood), for example, sounds like a pastime for sickheads. "The court was told that the accused and his accomplices had decided to go out 'paddy tipping', after which they made the vicious and unprovoked assault on Mr O'Flaherty."

Or Dale Campbell-Savours (Lab, Workington), whose sole current interest is the decision by Campbell's Soups to close a factory in his constituency. Unfortunately, his name sounds like part of a TV commercial for the company.

Cue New World Symphony arranged for brass "Aye, when I were't lad in 'Dales, ah'd savour Campbell's Yorkshire Broth — nourishing chunks of bark blended in a rich rat stock."

First night

Final curtain's vintage revival

Robin Thorner

Just Between Ourselves Scarborough

IT IS ALL very sentimental. This is the last show in the existing Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, a former grammar school where Alan Ayckbourn's company has improbably been based for the past 20 years. Before that it had a room in the library where Stephen Joseph, the company's founder, took them after splitting from his previous theatre-in-the-round operation in Stoke-on-Trent, the first dedicated arena stage in this country.

So this old classroom has seen the world premieres of 20 or more plays by one of the world's most popular dramatists, as well as the birth of countless theatrical careers, and a sound, varied repertoire we have no right to expect in a seasonal town of this size. It has already become a place of pilgrimage for drama students from around the world as well as day trippers. Future generations will no doubt see heritage trails and the "Ayckbourn country" experience.

But while the playwright lives, this theatre is not a museum but a working rep, producing new plays and new writers — and it will remain so, when it moves in April to a converted former cinema, the art deco Odeon 200 yards up the road.

Firm directors give evidence on illicit arms deals with Iran

David Pallister

DIRECTOR of the British Defence company BMARC yesterday told MPs investigating illicit arms sales to Iran that guns exported to Singapore were being shipped on to a secret customer. Donald Isles, BMARC's deputy managing director, said the 140 naval cannon may

have more interesting, trend. Backbenchers continue frantically to suck up to ministers in the hope of getting a place in the final ministerial reshuffle before the next election. Bob Dunn (C, Dartford) served up a greaseball about our increasing exports to Japan. David Congdon (C, Croydon NE) claimed with apparent pride that Britain was now the world's seventh largest producer of silicone chips (not only a breast implant, but also a tasty snack).

Jacques Arnold (C, Gravesend), who is dug up by the whips every morning and for whom a stake through the heart would be a kindness, asked about the reduced cost of privatised fuel and so enabled the minister to gloat at length.

Robert Atkins... whoops, he lost his ministerial job last year, but it's never too late to try again. He did.

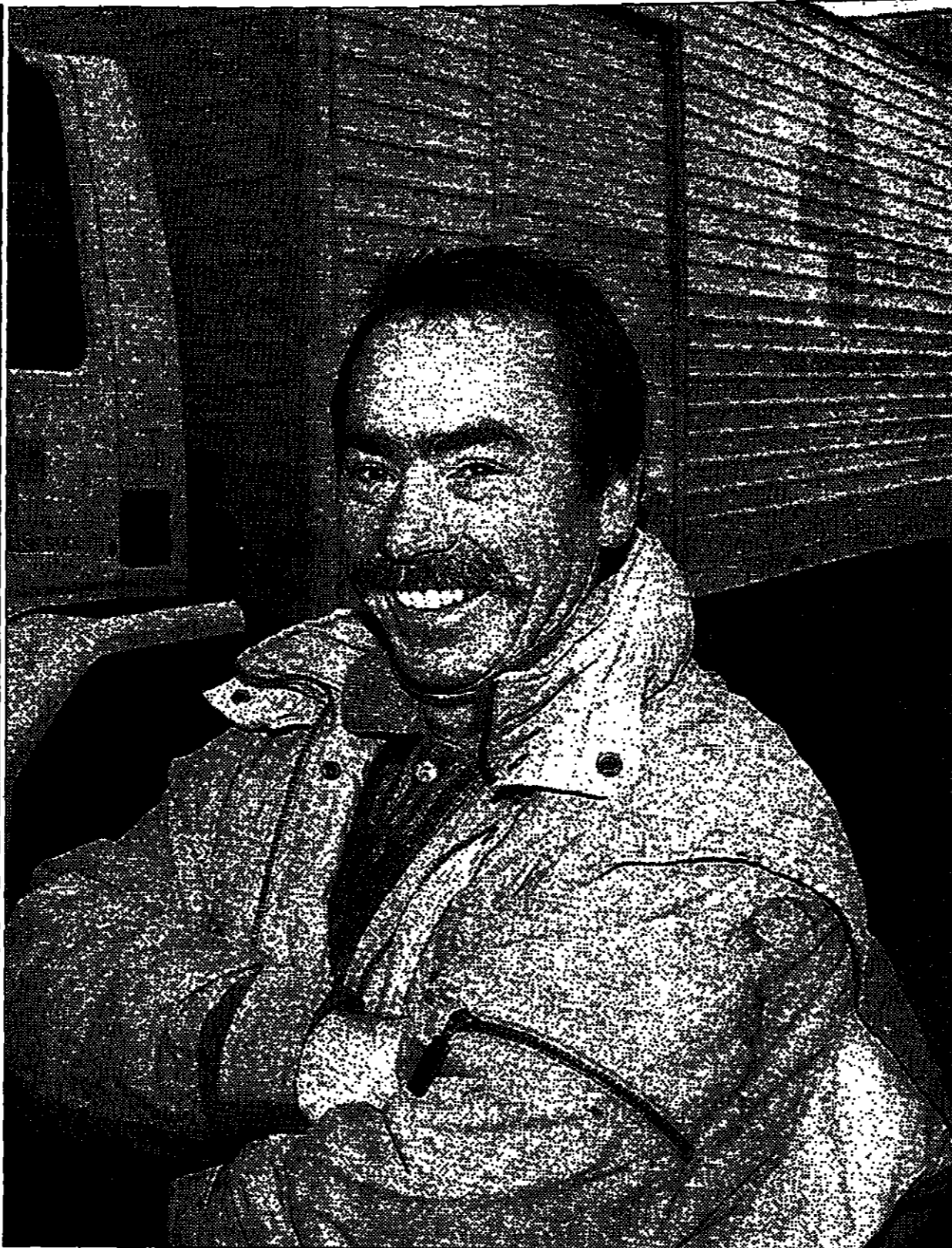
Even David Evans, the boor from Welwyn who fancies himself as a lovable national character, bellowed in a voice which made the late Arthur Mulnard sound like Julian Clary, "until tha' lot over there stop torakin' abahz stakes in Brit'ain and start torakin' some common sense, the be'er it'll be for all of us."

Someone shouted an ironic "Answer, answer!", but Mr Evans is now no longer enjoyed, merely tolerated, like a child who does not realise that the joke has begun to bore the grown-ups.

But the most curious sign of the way government confidence is disintegrating is the way in which ministers have started to brown-nose backbenchers.

Phillip Oppenheim offered Nicholas Budgen "warm congratulations". He even discovered that Teresa Gorman had "made some fair points". Most astonishing of all, Richard Page told Michael Grylls (C, Surrey NW) that his views were always listened to "with reverence and attention".

What on earth does that mean? Is Grylls threatening to defect to the Liberals? Does it merely mean that ministers cross themselves when Grylls bores into view? A crucifix, a clove of garlic, or even stake to the heart might be simpler. "Gabriel's man, (Arch. Scots) a wandering beggar."



John Boast, being held in Romania on suspicion of smuggling a baby girl in Britain. PHOTOGRAPH: LANCAIRE TELEGRAPH

Romanian baby 'hoiked around Britain in search of a family'

Sarah Boscely and Chris Stephen in Bucharest

JOHN BOAST, the British man detained in Romania over allegations of smuggling a baby girl into Britain, was said yesterday to have "hoiked her around the country in his lorry" last summer looking for a family willing to give her a home.

Robert and Helen Dunn, who had brought a girl, now nearly three, out of Romania two years earlier, agreed to take the 15-month-old baby into their North Yorkshire home after being contacted by an intermediary. The hand-over took place at the Watford Gap service station on the M1, and the baby is now living in their home.

The Duns have applied to adopt both children. Although they were not unhappy about the care the baby was receiving, North Yorkshire social services department applied for a care order last August because of her illegal entry. They were turned down in the High Court by Mrs Justice Bracewell, who ruled that the Duns, but not the children, could be identified.

Yesterday, the Romanian authorities let it be known that they may ask for the return of the child, who was abandoned by her parents at the Oradea children's hospital because of economic hardship. She was said to be under-nourished and undeveloped when she arrived in Britain.

Mr Boast, who is not under arrest but may not leave the country, was given rights of custody for the baby by her parents last year. But Romanian prosecutor, Radu Bodea, said this was not the same as a formal adoption, which typically takes over a year and involves stringent international safeguards.

"He didn't have permission to adopt the child," he said. "The baby crossed the border without the legal papers."

Mrs Page, who has adopted a Romanian child herself, said yesterday the Duns knew nothing about Mr Boast and had not asked him to procure a child for them.

She said there might be about 600 Romanian children in the country. "There are still children coming out legally," she said. "For the most part they are abandoned. Very few don't have parents."

"It is very difficult for us to understand that over there it is socially acceptable to leave your child in the hospital if you cannot afford to keep it. It is far better that they come out and go into homes than stay in institutions."

Research was showing, she said, that the children were adjusting extremely successfully in Britain.

The British embassy had invited her parents to meet British officials in Bucharest to confirm they had given up their legal right to the child, but did not ask whether a formal adoption had taken place. An embassy spokesman said last night: "The parents were asked whether they had given up the rights to their child voluntarily. They said they were happy."

Mr Boast is a former nightclub manager and businessman from Great Harwood, near Blackburn, Lancashire, who began running convoys of donated food and medicine into Romania in 1991. He is based in the village of Finis, near Oradea.

Amanda Page, the solicitor working on the adoption for the Duns, also advised Bernadette and Adrian Mooney, who were sentenced in 1994 to a two-year suspended sentence in Romania for attempting to smuggle a baby out of the country under a blanket in their car.

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Unionists 'to ditch Tories in autumn'

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

THE Ulster Unionists will end their support for the Conservatives in the autumn, a former political aide to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has advised business clients in a confidential briefing paper.

Jonathan Caine, who was in the centre of the Ulster peace initiative until last November and is now a parliamentary lobbyist with the Communications Group, has put business clients on alert for an autumn election.

He says that Labour's improved standing in Northern Ireland, John Major's "lame duck" government and Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble's "limited bargaining power" over the Irish peace deal will leave the Unionists little "advantage in going down with the Tories in 1997".

"Any understanding between the Government and the Ulster Unionists will not last beyond the autumn unless there is a dramatic improvement in the Tories' electoral prospects. MPs should be prepared to face the electorate at any point after that," he says.

Mr Caine's analysis — written a week ago after Emma Nicholson's defection to the Liberal Democrats — says that relations are already greatly strained between the Unionists and the Government over the joint framework document for a peace settlement.

"Another problem for the Conservatives is that relations between the Unionists and the Labour Party have improved dramatically since the election of Mr Blair. In particular, the replacement of the awkward nationalist Kevin McNamara by the pragmatic Dr Mo Mowlam has greatly increased co-operation."

"In reality... most Unionists still feel more comfortable with a Conservative government. At the moment, Unionists are drawing some comfort from the belief that the framework document is dead and that the Government will stand firm on decommissioning of IRA weapons. While the second of these is probable, the first

represents wishful thinking." Mr Caine says that while in the short term — until July — the Tories in office, they face a big risk if they upset Labour. "Mr Trimble will be anxious not to alienate the Labour Party... by simply propping up an ailing, lame-duck government. He will not want to repeat the Unionists' tactical mistake of 1978-79 when, by maintaining Labour in office... they succeeded in irritating Mrs Thatcher and lost favour with the incoming Tory government."

He also warns that a decision to support the Tories has potentially serious consequences for Mr Trimble's leadership because he was elected to have "a less trusting relationship with Mr Major". Failure to take a tough line with Mr Major would leave him "vulnerable to the vultures within his own party and prey to the Paisleyite cries of betrayal".

Mr Major's position for manoeuvre to help the Unionists is "severely limited", he says. "As a result it would appear at this stage (and not counting dramatic developments such as a return to violence) the most that Mr Trimble could expect to achieve is to exert a negative influence on events."

"Mr Trimble... cannot compel the Government to adopt a Unionist agenda and Mr Major is unable to find the means of delivering it without risking the central achievement of his period in office — peace in Northern Ireland."

Last night Mr Trimble said neither he nor any Ulster Unionist MP had discussed the paper with Mr Caine. He added: "Mr Caine is a very knowledgeable person about the state of affairs in Northern Ireland. I look forward to reading it in your paper."

Mr Caine said: "I don't want to comment on this confidential paper. All I will say is that it represents my own views and I have not consulted Ulster Unionists or government ministers about its contents."

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close... free... will de... (vertical text on the right edge of the page)

Iraq close to agreeing UN oil deal

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

SADDAM HUSSEIN was on the verge last night of a move of calculated desperation — taking up a humiliating United Nations offer to sell oil to feed his suffering people, thereby hoping to prolong his own rule, five years after the Gulf war.

President Saddam's precise intentions were unclear, but the development marks a new stage in the battle of wills between him and his coalition enemies, as well as mounting pressure for relief for millions of ordinary Iraqis.

be paid into a UN-controlled account to finance equitable relief among his Kurdish enemies in the north and disaffected Shi'ites in the south.

British officials counselled caution: "It is really implementation of [resolution] 986 it's a good thing, but if they want to open negotiations on substance then it's not a game we will play," said one.

Both Britain and the US are sharply aware that acceptance of the resolution could strengthen Iraqi demands to lift all sanctions, though the key oil embargo is linked to compliance with other UN resolutions demanding the scrapping of its weapons of mass destruction.

Word of the offer to discuss implementation surfaced as three French parliament members headed to Iraq to assess the deteriorating economic conditions that Baghdad blames on the embargo.

Under resolution 986 Iraq can sell \$1 billion worth of oil every 90 days or \$2 billion over six months to meet humanitarian needs of its people. After 180 days the resolution can be renewed.

The \$1 billion can be raised by \$28 million to pay tariffs that Turkey may charge for the use of the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline.

The resolution would take effect a day after a report from Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, whose staff has to negotiate plans to implement the resolution and other arrangements with the Iraqi government.

Oil sales proceeds available for Iraq's humanitarian supplies would be about \$650 million to \$680 million of each \$1 billion. A 30 per cent deduction, \$300 million, would be earmarked for a Gulf war reparations fund, including to Kuwait.

A sum of \$130 million to \$150 million every 90 days is to go for UN humanitarian programmes for Kurds in the north.



Worm in the plan... Apple's error was in refusing to license its Macintosh operating system widely, allowing Microsoft to establish a market stranglehold

Apple cuts 3,000 jobs in battle to survive computer war

Mark Tran in New York

THE Apple computer company yesterday announced plans to axe up to 3,000 workers, a fifth of its workforce, as part of its latest restructuring in an increasingly desperate struggle for survival.

It also intends to withdraw from the low end of the personal computer market and concentrate on more expensive and profitable models.

The layoffs follow a purge of 2,500 people less than three years ago, and underline the decline of a pioneer of the personal computer revolution.

Apple's troubles cannot be blamed on its products, widely hailed as the most user-friendly PCs on the market. That Apple has sunk to its present state is proof that the best product on the market is no guarantee of success.

refusal to license the system to other manufacturers confined Betamax to the dustbin of history.

Apple began life in the back of a garage in the mid-1970s, the brainchild of a couple of computer nerds in their 20s, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. They incorporated the company on April Fool's Day, 1976, and built it into a giant that won rave reviews for its easy-to-use computers.

While much blame has been heaped on Apple's chief executive, Michael Spindler, for the company's predicament, the fundamental error was made by his predecessor, John Sculley. In a classic strategic mistake, Mr Sculley declined to widely license the Macintosh operating system in the 1980s, allowing Microsoft to eventually establish a stranglehold on the computer software market.

Mr Spindler, appointed to succeed Mr Sculley three years ago, compounded Apple's problems with a series of misjudgements, especially when he drastically underestimated demand in Christmas 1994, resulting in up to

\$1 billion in lost sales. Such mistakes pulled the rug from under Apple's goal of attaining a 20 per cent market share.

Its market share is hovering around 10 per cent and threatens to shrink under a blitzkrieg from PC suppliers using Microsoft's Windows 95 operating system. The success of Windows 95 must be especially galling for Apple, since many of the features touted by Microsoft have been available on the Macintosh for years.

More ominously, as Apple's market share has shrunk, software companies have grown increasingly reluctant to develop applications for its computers. Today, most software developers write new programs first for Windows and only later, if at all, for the much smaller Macintosh segment of the market. Now they may not even bother with Apple.

Apple's board is due to meet next week and Mr Spindler's future seems increasingly tenuous.

There is no shortage of advice for Apple. Many analysts

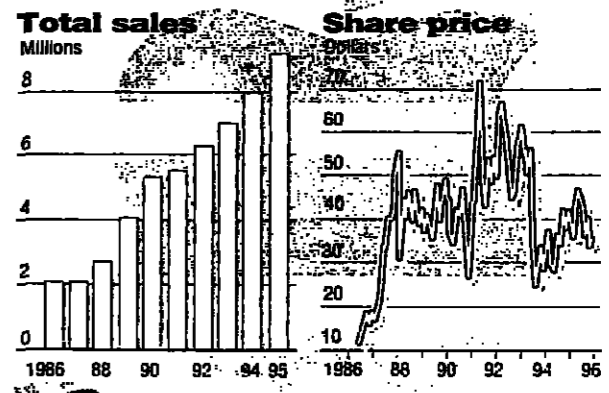
argue that it should stop making computers and concentrate on software. At the moment it is fighting on too many fronts, helping to develop chips to compete with Intel, hardware to compete with thousands of PC suppliers, and software to compete with Microsoft, among others. Unlike rivals selling PCs, Apple must spend large amounts on research, development and marketing for its wide range of products.

Apple is still hugely popular in publishing, design and education and the company may survive in those niche markets. But to compete in a world full of cut-throat PC vendors, it needs the backing of a stronger company. Several possible suitors have been mentioned, including IBM, Sun Microsystems and Oracle, a software company.

Some Japanese companies, such as Sony and Canon, are also thought to be interested. For many, Apple has represented the American dream. A successful bid from Tokyo would be a rude awakening.

Leader comment, page 8

Hard Apple



A brief history

- Apple, founded in 1976 by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, enjoyed early success with Apple II, the first computer to have colour graphics as standard. Market lead eroded by arrival of technically superior IBM PC in 1981, which becomes widely cloned.
- Apple Macintosh launched in 1984 and wins acclaim for ease of use but initially fails to sell. Co-founders Jobs and Wozniak quit in 1985, leaving ex-Pepsi-Cola president John Sculley to axe 20 per cent of workforce. Redesigned and expanded Macintosh II, introduced in 1987, proves popular and profitable.
- Microsoft's Windows 3.0, launched in 1990, enables PC clone manufacturers to build rivals to Mac. In 1991 Apple signs deal with old enemy IBM in attempt to build next generation machines. Newton personal organiser flops. In October 1993, Sculley is replaced by Mike Spindler, who has been president of the company since 1990. Apple loses to slash prices and margins as Mac's ease of use advantage is cut further by launch of Windows 95 in late 1995.

PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

The best manufacture does not always win

THE BEST technology does not necessarily sell itself. Nicholas Bannister and Jack Schofield write. In the battle of the video tape recorders in the late 1970s, Matsushita's VHS system trounced Sony's Betamax, although the latter provided a better picture.

Matsushita licensed its technology to many manufacturers and VHS machines flooded on to the market. Sony initially refused to allow anyone else to make Betamax machines. Video rental shops dropped Betamax films as it became clear VHS had captured the lion's share of the equipment market.

WHEN Christopher Latham Scholes laid out the Qwerty keyboard for the Remington Type Writer almost 130 years ago, he placed the most common letters on opposite sides of the typebasket, making keys less likely to jam. Electrical contacts have replaced mechanical keys, but so many keyboards use Qwerty that it cannot easily be changed for a "superior" alternative.

ATTEMPTS to replace the analogue audio cassette have had little success. Philips and Matsushita launched the Digital Compact Cassette to give CD quality sound on tape. Customers who had just swallowed the switch from records to CDs preferred to stay with their existing cassette recorders.

Four jailed over Munch art theft

Simon Townley in Oslo and Sally Weale

FOUR men involved in the theft of the Edward Munch masterpiece, *The Scream*, were jailed in Oslo yesterday.

The painting, valued at \$48 million, was stolen from the National Gallery in Oslo in February 1994 and recovered undamaged three months later following a covert operation by Scotland Yard undercover officers.

Yesterday, as Judge Oddvar Ege read out the verdicts at Oslo city court, one of the defendants, Pal Enger, threw a jug of water to the floor and screamed: "I am innocent."

Enger, aged 38, a former professional footballer who previously stole another Munch painting, was sentenced to the maximum six years and three months for theft. William Aasheim, aged 30, was jailed for three years and nine months.

Jan Olsen, aged 49, who claimed he had only been trying to help the authorities recover the painting, attempted to run out of court after being sentenced to two years and eight months for handling stolen goods and conspiring to sell the painting.

Bjorn Grytdal, aged 28, was sentenced to four years and nine months on similar charges. All four men pleaded not guilty and are expected to appeal against the sentences.

The *Scream*, completed in 1893, was the best of a number of versions. It was stolen on the opening day of the 1994 Winter Olympics at Lillehammer. Two unidentified men were filmed by a security camera climbing a ladder at

the front of the gallery. They smashed a window, grabbed the painting and made off in a car in less than a minute, leaving a message, "Thanks for the poor security."

The court case began last August and was completed in December after 244 witnesses gave evidence.

During the trial, the court moved temporarily to Bow Street magistrates' court in London to hear evidence from two British undercover officers working for Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad, who recovered the painting after posing as representatives from the Paul Getty Museum in California, and helped ensnare the gang.

It emerged during the trial that an alarm went off at 6.30am on the day the picture was taken but a security guard thought it was a fault in the system. The alarm was raised 19 minutes after the break-in when a policeman saw a ladder leaning against the window.

Cristof Feyt, a defence lawyer, said security was so bad that the theft must have been an inside job. He described the verdicts as a murder of justice.

Commander Roy Ramm, head of Scotland Yard's organised crime group (specialist operations), of which the art and antiques squad forms a part, said his officers

played a major part in securing the recovery of the painting. One of the undercover officers, known during the operation as Sid Walker, added: "There was an extreme sense of satisfaction in recovering a national treasure."

How to steal a masterpiece, G2 cover story

Shell and Esso start price war

Ian King

A PETROL pump price war broke out last night as Esso and Shell slashed prices in a desperate attempt to win back their falling market shares.

The pair — who have lost millions of customers to lower-charging supermarket rivals like Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury — said they were taking the step for the benefit of motorists.

Drivers' organisations, led by the AA and the RAC, welcomed the news, but the Petrol Retailers Association, the industry body, warned that a prolonged price war could result in almost half of Britain's petrol stations, particularly those in rural areas, going out of business.

The cuts mean the price of a litre of four star will fall by an average of 2p to 4p, which the AA estimates will save a motorist clocking up 12,000 miles a year around £94 annually. Unleaded and diesel prices will also fall by an average of around 2p a litre.

The pump war broke out when Esso, which with 2,100 forecourts is the market leader, said it was launching a scheme, *Pricewatch*, in which it promises to match the lowest petrol price offered by any supermarket within a three mile radius of its stations.

Esso said the scheme followed private research suggesting that three-quarters of motorists are prepared to drive up to three miles in search of cheaper petrol. The company's 10-year-old *Tiger Tokens* scheme, in which customers receive tokens which can be exchanged for "gifts" when they buy petrol, is to be scrapped.

Managing director Ian Upton said Esso was not launching a price war, insisting that the company was not undercutting its rivals in a short-term move.

"We are committed to giving customers what they want," he said. "In central Scotland and the north-east of England where the concept has been tested, motorists voted with their wheels."

Shell immediately hit back, promising to cut prices by up to 4p a litre from midnight.

David Pirret, general manager of Shell UK, said: "We have committed vigorously in a regional price war for around six months and are now offering lower prices to the rest of the country."

He said Shell would not be "compromising" by cutting other benefits to customers, and pledged that the group's loyalty card, Shell Smart, would continue.

The supermarket chains, who account for around one in every four litres of petrol now sold in Britain, said they would match Shell and Esso's cuts.

Tesco chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin said: "We've forced Esso to reduce their price, and will match any cuts made by other people."

Britain's other two petrol giants, Texaco and BP, also promised to make price cuts where possible.

However, Paul Sykes, president of the Petrol Retailers Association, warned that 8,000 petrol stations — almost half — could close over the next two years.

"If petrol prices fall below cost, as they did during Esso's trial run in Scotland, we estimate that up to 45 per cent of Britain's petrol stations could close altogether," he said.

Leaving Las Vegas is made with great passion and considerable understanding. Its outstanding virtue is that it is almost entirely non-judgmental. It doesn't approve or disapprove of these people. It simply shows them some sort of sympathy in their wretchedness.

Derek Malcolm

G2 page 8

LE SALE

4 BRITAIN

IRA woman hits back over payout

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE convicted IRA bomber Donna Maguire was last night fighting a rearguard action through her solicitor as politicians and Provisional IRA victims denounced her £13,500 compensation award for a twisted ankle.

Department of the Environment lawyers are considering an appeal against the award made at the High Court in Belfast. The court heard Ms Maguire, who spent six years in European prisons before being sentenced to nine years jail for bombing a British army base in Omagh, had to give up dancing and wearing high heels after tripping on an uneven pavement.

Ms Maguire, aged 29, of Newry, Co Down, was freed immediately because of the time she had spent in custody.

Yesterday Colin Parry, who received £7,500 after his 12-year-old son Tim was killed in the 1993 IRA bombing in Warrington, called for a review of the compensation system.

"Every time these judgments come along, it reminds us how little society appears to value a child's life," he said.

Sandra Peacock, aged 49, whose prison officer husband,

Jim, was shot dead by the Protestant UVF at their north Belfast home two years ago, said: "I'm gobsmacked, absolutely gobsmacked. I hope she chokes on that money."

There was more outrage at Westminster, where MPs added their voices to the calls for a review of the compensation system. Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the hardline Democratic Unionist Party, said: "This is an insult to all those families who have lost relatives as a result of terrorism and who have been paid derisory amounts."

But cab driver Malcolm Egerton, aged 42, who was paid substantially more than Ms Maguire after being hijacked by the IRA in 1982 and forced to drive a bomb to Whitehall, backed her right to compensation. "I wouldn't think there's anything wrong with her getting the money, as long as it happened while she was walking around as an ordinary member of the public and not going about acts of terrorism."

In Belfast Ms Maguire's solicitor, Leo White, hit back at her critics. "I view many of these comments by English politicians and some here as nothing other than hysteria."

"This sort of emotional whiplash is wrong... and it does nothing to contribute in anyway to the peace process."



Lady of leisure: the duchess hits the slopes



Glittering image: showing off her jewellery

Edward Pilkington on why duchess's £1 million debt proved too much for the palace



Lady of letters... Promoting book of Budgie the helicopter

Fergie faces day of reckoning out in the cold

THE prompt and sharply-worded response from Buckingham Palace yesterday to news of the Duchess of York's critical finances underlined the determination of the Queen and the royal household to wash their hands of a woman whom they have long considered to be a liability.

The intention of the statement was clear: to hold her at arms length. "Management of her financial affairs is the duchess's responsibility," it said.

Sarah Ferguson, or Fergie as she is affectionately called, has been out in the cold since she was captured on camera toasting by a poolside, five months after her marriage broke down, leaving her toes sucked by her American "financial adviser" John Bryan.

The Queen is believed to have ordered that the duchess conducted no more official engagements after the separation from Prince Andrew in March 1992. In 1991, she undertook 213 such duties.

The palace's hope in dissociating itself from the duchess's cash-flow troubles is that the flak from creditors and the press will not hit the monarchy. The royal household has tactfully colluded with the image of the duchess as a loose and uncontrollable woman — a senior palace press aide once famously accused her of being unfit to be a member of the royal family.

The information apparently leaked from her private accounts suggests that last year she spent £384,000 on staffing — a butler, cook, nanny, gardener, cleaner, dresser, lady-in-waiting and two personal assistants.

Then there was a spending spree of near Imelda Marcos proportions in New York, where she allegedly bought 20 pairs of hand-made shoes and boots for a total of £3,000. Her hair-

stylist, Nicky Clarke, costs £150 a go — although a friend said yesterday that the duchess was now doing her own hair as a cost-cutting measure. She is reported to have spent £50,000 on 12 dresses from top designer Isabel Kristensen, and she enjoyed holidays in Switzerland and the Caribbean. The duchess said yesterday her financial affairs were "not anybody else's business".

A year ago she told an audience in Washington that she was hard-up. "I'm a separated mother of two, largely responsible for the finances of my family." She was then having to leave a

rented home she shared with her two daughters, princesses Beatrice and Eugenie. She may return to Sunninghill Park, her £5 million marital home in Berkshire, to live in a converted out-building.

The palace is annoyed by the latest rash of bad publicity because the Queen has been striving to dilute criticism that the royals are profligate.

In 1993, following a wave of adverse commentary on the fact that she was not paying tax, the Queen agreed to reimburse Parliament the annuities paid for the Duke of York and other lesser royals.

Raft sank with boat

Geoffrey Gibbs

A SELF-inflating life raft that could have saved the crew of the sunken trawler Pescado if it had been fitted properly, was still in working order when it was examined after the vessel was raised from the seabed 21 years later.

But the jury in the trial of the two businessmen who operated the Plymouth registered scalloper were told yesterday that the 10-man raft went to the bottom with the boat because it was lashed to railings and could not float free and inflate.

Joseph O'Connor and Alan Ayres each deny six charges of manslaughter arising from the loss of the 100 tonne Pescado, which sank with all hands in 24ft of water 13 miles off south Cornwall in 1974.

The charges allege that the vessel was unstable and unseaworthy, had no valid UK fishing vessel safety certificate and no adequate life-saving equipment or means of alerting the emergency services.

The prosecution says the defendants were in breach of a duty of care amounting to gross negligence, which was a substantial cause of the deaths of the five men and one woman crew.

On the second day of the trial at Bristol crown court, Francis Gilbert QC, for the prosecution, showed the jury a series of photographs and video footage of the steel-hulled boat on the sea bed and in dry dock after it had been raised, including footage of the covered raft being taken from the wreck in September 1993. The video showed the raft inflating when a rope attached to a gas canister was pulled during an inspection on shore.

"The irony is that it worked," Mr Gilbert said. "It would have saved most if not all of the crew, but it was never able to be used because of the way that Mr O'Connor supervised it being put on the vessel."

Earlier, Mr Gilbert told the jury it was the crown's case that both O'Connor and Ayres were actively involved in the management of Guidelay, the company that acquired the Pescado from the receivers of Mr O'Connor's failed Wherry Fish Selling Company in 1990.

The case continues on Monday.

Dublin attacks Sinn Fein's hopes as being 'unrealistic'

David Sharrock

SINN Fein had "unrealistic expectations" of what it could get out of a negotiated settlement in Northern Ireland which were an obstacle to progress, one of the Irish government's coalition partners said yesterday.

Franklin De Rossa, leader of Democratic Left and a former IRA internee, told an Ulster Unionist fringe group that Northern Ireland "is a legitimate part of the United Kingdom and must remain so for as long as the majority of the people of Northern Ireland wish it".

His comments were seen as the furthest a Dublin minister has yet gone in reassuring Unionists about what the future holds for them. In another sign of the changed times in Belfast, Mr De Rossa

became the first senior Irish politician to address Unionists in the recently formed Labour Group.

Mr De Rossa said that Irish unity could not be forced upon Unionists "and they cannot and should not be manipulated into it. As I see it no serious British politician believes withdrawal is possible or indeed honourable. What they want is to minimise the problems that Northern Ireland causes for the rest of the British political system."

He urged Unionists to read the framework document objectively. Co-operative ventures in the training of nurses and mutual recognition of teacher qualifications were not likely to drive anyone to the barricades, Sinn Fein was mistaken in greeting the document as a sign that Britain was inclined towards disengagement.

Doctors and jailers agree on unshackling of Holloway prisoner in hospital

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

CHAINS have been removed from the HIV positive woman prisoner who was shackled 24 hours a day while in a specialist London hospital Aids unit.

The decision to unshackle the Holloway prison inmate known as Jane was taken after senior staff from the jail agreed with doctors at St

Mary's hospital, west London, that her medical condition outweighed the security considerations.

The Home Secretary, Michael Howard, prepares today to issue guidelines to prison governors banning the use of chains and cuffs for pregnant inmates in the hours before they give birth.

Jane, aged 34, had been handcuffed night and day to a prison officer since she was transferred to the hospital a

week ago from Holloway prison, where she was being held on remand for importing heroin. She is being treated for suspected forms of Aids related illnesses, including hepatitis. Her case brought angry protests, particularly because she was unconvicted.

At night officers used jackets to wrap the chain used to shackle her to stop it rattling so she could sleep.

The acting director-general of the Prison Service, Richard

Tilt, reviewed the case on Tuesday. He said discretion already existed for the chains to be removed in such cases if the medical condition of the inmate made it necessary.

Her solicitor Sarah Cleary had said she would seek an emergency injunction after two bail applications to free her client were turned down by Old Bailey and High Court judges.

Shackling was introduced

last April after the IRA escapes from the maximum security Whitemoor and Parkhurst prisons.

A prison governor decides whether an inmate can be trusted to go to hospital unescorted.

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مكتبات الامم المتحدة

July 20 1986

Raft sank with boat



Melvyn Bragg at yesterday's protest against £8.5 million cuts in arts subsidies. PHOTOGRAPH: E. HAMILTON WEST

Producers protest at arts cuts

Sarah Boseley

LEADING theatre producers and actors held a rally yesterday to protest at a proposed £8.5 million cut in government funding for the arts over the next two years.

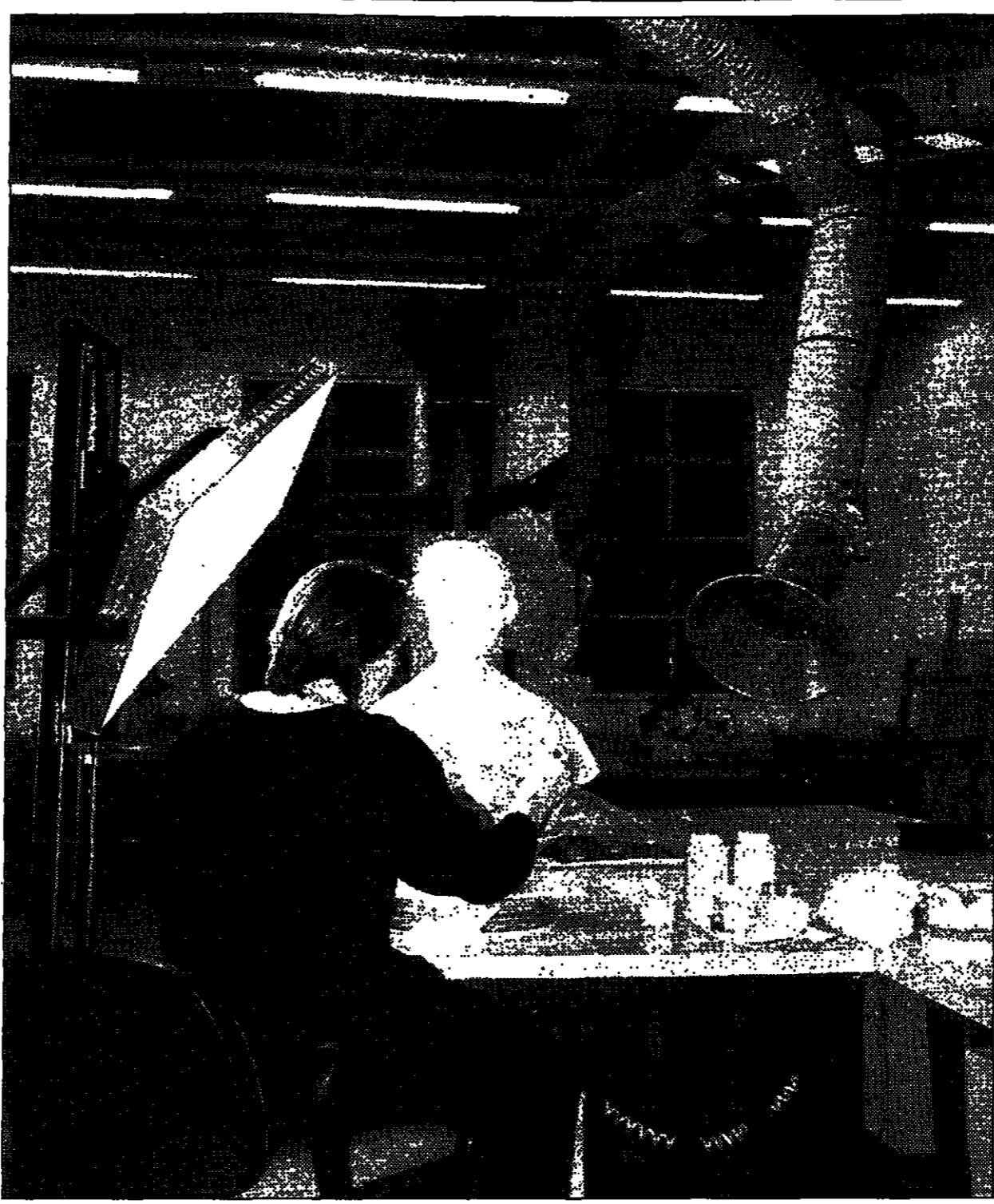
Some 60 speakers went on the stage of the Playhouse theatre in London to denounce the ravages that money shortages were working on the arts. Although they spoke against the backdrop of the theatre's current big commercial success, Roy Cooney's farce Funny Money, they insisted that the plight of the arts in Britain was no laughing matter.

Royal Court Theatre, London, said the theatre had received £16 million towards a £21 million refurbishment project, but there was nothing for putting on productions.

The actor Charlotte Cornwell told the rally that in Ireland, where she had just filmed a second series of The Governor, a television prison drama, the government had recognised the importance of the arts to the economy, and made it financially attractive for artists to go there to work.

Others spoke of the enormous loss to unemployed youngsters and to those who benefited from arts therapy if cuts went ahead. Rebecca Smithers writes: The Government is to publish a review of museums, which will take in funding and the implications of the National Lottery, John Sprout, the Heritage Minister, said yesterday.

Mr Sprout announced the review — before the summer parliamentary recess — at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.



Kirsten Hope at work at the Victoria and Albert Museum, a beneficiary of government funding. PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

New hope for schizophrenics

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

THE first results of the use of a new generation of drugs in top security special hospitals suggest that they work for many patients with schizophrenia who have proved resistant to other medication, psychiatrists said yesterday.

If confirmed, the results would represent a breakthrough in the treatment of some of the most violent patients detained in the hospitals. Up to half those with schizophrenia are said to be resistant to other drugs.

The findings could also boost the controversial care in the community programme at a time when people suffering schizophrenia — one in

100 of the population — are increasingly regarded with fear and suspicion because of a series of highly publicised killings by chronic sufferers.

But the new drugs may have dangerous side-effects. Although psychiatrists say the risk is worth taking, they say that patients must be regularly monitored and must go on and off the drugs only gradually.

Early results of use of the drugs, clozapine and risperidone were outlined at a conference in Nottingham organised by the Special Hospitals Service Authority.

Pamela Taylor, professor of special hospital psychiatry at Broadmoor hospital, Berkshire, said 14 per cent of the first 200 patients given clozapine since 1980 had been discharged or transferred. That was probably an underestimate of the success of the treatment and the signs were that it represented a "major advance".

News in brief

NHS managers 'up 400pc on 1989'

THE number of nurses and midwives in the NHS was cut by 13 per cent between 1988 and 1994, while the number of managers increased by 400 per cent, a Labour Party survey says today. This represents a loss of 50,000 nurses and midwives and a gain of 18,340 managers. The number of nurses undergoing training was cut by 31 per cent, a loss of 19,020.

Mother who killed baby jailed

A MOTHER who deprived her baby of food and poisoned her with huge amounts of salt was jailed for five years yesterday. Karen Fox, aged 35, of Telford, Shropshire, was convicted in October at Stafford crown court of the manslaughter of her daughter, Heddwen, and cruelty to another child.

Lairds accept right to roam

AN AGREEMENT by which Scottish landowners for the first time formally acknowledge their countrymen's traditional right to roam received a qualified welcome at its launch yesterday. But walkers and climbers remain doubtful that the Concordat on Access will persuade some estate owners to tolerate visitors.

Crows 'tool-makers'

A SCIENTIST has discovered crows in the Pacific that make tools out of twigs and leaves to hook insects. Gavin Hunt, an ecologist at Massey University in New Zealand, says in the Journal of Nature today that the high degree of tool-making by the New Caledonian crow is unknown in other wild creatures.

Reform role for inquiry judge

SIR Richard Scott, the judge in charge of the arms to Iraq inquiry, will oversee changes in the civil justice system to make it quicker and cheaper, Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, said yesterday. Judges will play a much more substantial role in managing cases. It is the first indication that the Government intends to implement radical proposals of the law lord Lord Woolf to improve access to civil justice.

Buyer found for transport lab

THE Government is to sell the Transport Research Laboratory to the Transport Research Foundation, Steven Norris, the road safety minister, announced yesterday. The sale is expected to be completed by the end of next month. The foundation, which includes members of TRRL's management, plans to operate as a not-profit distributing company, with membership drawn from a range of interests in the transport sector.

University applicants down

UNIVERSITY applications have fallen for the first time since 1986, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said yesterday. The 1 per cent drop (about 5,000 candidates) shows demand levelling off as the number of 18-year-olds is beginning to rise, and may be due to fears of hardship and better job prospects, said UCAS spokesman, Jess Enderby.

Mark Doty

An article on January 18 about Mark Doty, who won the T S Eliot poetry prize for poems written between his partner's diagnosis as HIV positive and the onset of Aids, wrongly stated that Mr Doty himself was HIV positive. Mr Doty's publishers have asked the Guardian, which regrets the error, to set out the true position.

Remark at children's party led to Channel 5 challenge

Andrew Gull Media Correspondent

A CHANCE remark by Greg Dyke, head of the winning Channel 5 consortium, to one of his rivals at a children's party led to Virgin Television's legal challenge. The High Court heard yesterday.

Richard Branson's Virgin TV is seeking a judicial review of the Independent Television Commission's award of the licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting. Anthony Scrivenor, QC, for Virgin TV, said the commission, contrary to its rules, allowed Channel 5 Broadcasting to increase the maximum funding of its business plan by £100 million after applications had been submitted.

Broadcasting had been funded up to £206 million, but Dyke had put in an extra £100 million.

Lord Justice Henry, who is hearing the case with Mr Justice Turner, said the conversation was disputed. The licence for Channel 5, Britain's last terrestrial network, was awarded to Channel 5 Broadcasting which bid £22,002,000. Virgin TV, which submitted an identical bid, was failed on the quality of its programmes, as was UKTV, which bid £26.26 million.

Mr Scrivenor said the commission had prompted Channel 5 Broadcasting to add millions to its funding to pass the financial sustainability test. A new shareholders' agreement promising the extra money was signed four months after the application was submitted, he said. The hearing continues.

Women behaving badly may be the media flavour of the month, but it is already slightly stale. Since when have women who behave badly needed permission from Channel 4 to do what they damn well please? Suzanne Moore

Homebase advertisement featuring various furniture items like bookcases, chests, and sofas with prices and discounts.

House Insurance advertisement for Hill House Hammond, offering up to 50% more savings.

Cowed Russians retreat to lick wounds

James Meek outside Pervomayskaya

THEY went charging into the inferno as the elite of Russian fighting men. They came out of it yesterday as exhausted, beaten foot-sloggers, the fear still imprinted on their young faces.

They trudged through the snow towards waiting buses, laden down with their weapons and the memories of the shadowy rebel fighters darting from position to position in the smoke and gunfire.

Asked how the battle for Pervomayskaya had gone, most shook their heads. They looked down at the ground and walked on without breaking their stride.

"They're fighting better than we are," said one of the few Russian soldiers willing to speak. "The Chechens are really well dug in and we were trying to storm over open ground."

Piecing together the fragments of information from different soldiers, none of whom would give their names, there appear to have been two separate ground assaults on Monday and Tuesday, both of which were beaten back by the Chechens.

The units involved were the Alpha anti-terrorist squad, the interior minister's SOBR rapid reaction force and a similar, less experienced unit formed locally in Dagestan.

The troops failed to get a proper bridgehead in the vil-

lage. Their apparently relatively low casualty rate suggests that they were not prepared to engage in the kind of hand-to-hand fighting needed to clear trenches.

"This is not an anti-terrorist operation, it's a military offensive to re-capture territory," said an Alpha officer.

"We were all fighting together, SOBR, the Dagestanis and Alpha. SOBR got into the village twice and had to withdraw. The Chechens are strong, there are machine-guns everywhere."

One SOBR soldier said the Chechens seemed to have no shortage of ammunition. A member of the Dagestani unit said four of his group were killed and seven wounded.

Another SOBR soldier said they had got within 20 yards of the village mosque, which the Chechens were using as their headquarters.

They got the order to withdraw when they realised the Chechens were closing in around them. Five minutes more, he said, and they would have been trapped.

The 50-strong SOBR team had suffered one dead and three injured, he said. He had seen two dead hostages in the village.

He described the Chechens as highly mobile — something the Russians should have known from their experiences in Grozny. And the Chechens understand what the Russians are shouting to one another: the Russians do not understand the Chechen language.



Guard duty... A Russian soldier and his dog patrol the road to Pervomayskaya. PHOTOGRAPH BY HECTOR MATA

Caucasian tinderbox

The Caucasian Mountains

Pervomayskaya
Russian troops launch Grad rocket assault on about 200 Chechen rebels holding 70-120 hostages for a week. Tass reports 41 hostages freed in the operation.

Grozny
Search goes on for 30 workers seized by Chechen gunmen Tuesday at electric power plant in Chechnya's capital.

Trabazon
Pro-Chechen Turks hijack ferry Tuesday with about 200 on board, many of them Russian. They threaten to blow it up if any rescue mission mounted.

The Caucasus
The Avrasya was about to leave Trabazon for Pervomayskaya.

Caucasus time bomb ready to go off

The mountain region is an ethnic and religious melting pot waiting to explode in war. A weakened Russia's only answer is to apply more force, writes David Hearst in Moscow

THERE are many parallels between the Balkans and the unstable band of frontier states straddling the North Caucasus. Both are regions where history is rarely forgotten and ethnic conflicts merely await their next cue. Both are fault lines between Christian Orthodoxy and Islam. Both are mountainous transit zones where empires have clashed, and crumbled.

This tinderbox has one extra ingredient: oil. The largest new finds of oil in Kazakhstan and the Caspian Shelf need an outlet, and the pipeline routes from Azerbaijan are either through or just north of Chechnya.

Georgia and Turkey, or Iran. Facing each other across this busy highway are three regional powers: a weakened Russia, for which the Chechen conflict has become a crisis of the Russian state itself, Turkey which, despite its diplomatic protests, is wielding more and more influence among the Turkic-speaking peoples of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan; and fundamentalist Iran.

Behind Turkey nationalist Russia sees the West's meddling hand. It sees the same hand behind the oil companies. President Boris Yeltsin's new hardline ministers have already begun rehearsing their anti-Western rhetoric.

Vyacheslav Mikhailov, the nationalities minister, said yesterday: "What happens in Chechnya is not a local conflict. These are the consequences of the dismantling of the Soviet Union and this is a struggle of interested parties who are outside the borders of the Russian Federation."

The Russian foreign ministry and foreign intelligence service both made hostile statements yesterday, saying they had warned Turkey "more than once" about the activities of the Chechen diaspora in Turkey, which Russia claims led directly to Tuesday's ferry seizure.

In Chechnya itself, Aslan Maskhadov, the top rebel mil-

itary commander, effectively reinforced the Russian point by disavowing any role in the three hostage dramas.

The former Soviet army officer said he had not ordered the seizure of hostages on the Turkish ferry, now in the Black Sea. He had ordered the seizure the same day of 30 workers — mostly Russians — in the Chechen capital Grozny.

Mr Maskhadov repeated that he had had no part in the hostage seizure by the other Chechen group a week ago in neighbouring Dagestan, which led to the Russian bombardment of the village of Pervomayskaya, where the kidnappers have dug in with their captives.

The leader of the ferry hijackers, Mohammed Toctjan, is a Turk from the northern city of Duzce, but he has fought with the Chechens.

According to the Turkish interior minister, his group recognises Shamil Basayev — the Chechen who seized hostages in Budyonovsk in southern Russia last year — as its "leader".

Before Budyonovsk and last year's battle between the Russian army and Chechen fighters for Grozny, Mr Basayev led a group of Chechen fighters who fought alongside separatists seeking to split the Abkhazia region from Georgia 18 months earlier. Together they expelled the Georgian army from the Abkhazian "capital", Sukhumi.

Mr Basayev's interest in helping the Abkhaz minority was not based simply on the old adage that my enemy's enemy is my friend. No one needs reminding that the mastermind of the Chechen

deportations in 1944 was a Georgian — Joseph Stalin.

Mr Basayev headed the military wing of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus, whose aim was to restore the Republic of the North Caucasus, which briefly existed in 1918.

The dream is an independent Islamic state stretching from the Caspian to the Black Sea.

In 1993 the confederation and its possible "criminal" activities were high on Moscow's agenda. But after Abkhazia signed a ceasefire with Georgia, interest in the organisation fell and the fighters marched away.

The idea of a broad alliance of North Caucasian peoples simmers in the background, however. Although they are deeply divided in the constant battle for land and influence, the thought that they have a common enemy in Russia re-emerges at every crisis.

Relations between Georgia and Russia are also worsening. There are 200,000 Georgian refugees from Abkhazia living in western Georgia and pressing to return home. If Russia does not help it by crushing the separatists, Georgia is threatening to take "other options" — a new offensive.

The Chechen conflict may well spell the end of President Yeltsin's crisis-ridden presidency. But for the next president and for Russia this is an area it can ill-afford to lose.

At the moment the Russian Federation, like the Tsarist empire, can think of only one response to stifle the flames of the Caucasian conflict — to plunge further and deeper into war.

our lands, but we have not forgotten our culture," Mr Toctjan said in a telephone interview from the ship.

Prof Kirimli said: "Several generations have passed, but they have by no means lost their Caucasian identity. There is very strong North Caucasian solidarity. If something happens somewhere in the region it affects everyone."

There are 60 North Caucasian societies in Turkey and at least 15 journals and newsletters. Demonstrations, panel discussions and vigorous lobbying are common, but the ship seizure represents a new departure.

The militancy appears to stem from the experiences of Mr Toctjan and Ender Ozkan, another militant who has been identified, after they set out from their village of Duzce in north-west Turkey on an Islamic mission four years ago and became holy warriors in Abkhazia and Chechnya.

Mr Toctjan, the son of an imam, a Muslim priest, and Mr Ozkan have returned to their village on several occasions and set up aid committees to help the Chechen cause. Zeki Ozken, a relative there, said yesterday that the two men had such belief and strength that they were serious in what they were threatening to do.

It was "freedom or death", Mr Toctjan said from the ship. "The struggle will continue until there is a North Caucasian confederation and Russia is driven from the region."

Turks stand by fellow Muslims

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IT SAYS YOU'VE ARRIVED

Yeltsin's wary enemies play a waiting game

David Hearst in Moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin's political opponents dodged and weaved yesterday to avoid an open conflict with the Kremlin over the Chechen crisis, nevertheless hoping to take advantage of the situation as the June election campaign gets underway.

While the country was appalled by the levelling of Pervomayskaya — and state television coverage openly casting doubt on the official version of events — the communist-dominated Duma emerged with a weakly worded resolution defending the aim of the assault on the village but condemning the means.

Parliament called on the army not to use "unjustified actions" which caused the deaths of civilians. But it said the state had to take "adequate measures" to deal with terrorism.

Only Yelena Mizulina from Yabloko, the liberal reform faction of Grigori Yavlinski, offered to put forward a vote of no-confidence in the government. But last night no one — least of all the communists — was willing to take her up on it.

Gennady Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist Party, has no interest in provoking a confrontation before the race for the presidential election in June gets underway. He stressed what he saw as the incompetence of Mr Yeltsin's administration, saying the seizure of the ferry was the last link in a chain of events stemming from Russia's loss of power.

"This is a lesson to those Western leaders and parliamentarians who supported the politics of the Kremlin leadership. Those policies have led to the distribution of arms, creation of flashpoints of tension, and international terrorism."

Everyone still had Mr Yavlinski's phrase ringing in their ears: "This government is as dangerous when they do something as when they don't."

The anti-government mood was clear when voting took place for a new Speaker. The old Speaker, Ivan Rybkin, who had worked closely with Mr Yeltsin, was rejected and his former deputy joined the job. Gennady Seleznyov, aged 48, is a communist and ex-editor of Pravda.

The extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy used the ferry seizure to, attack

Turkey. He said that the Turks should be told that if they did not mount an operation to free the Russian hostages in 72 hours, Russia would "help the Kurds".

This was not far from the official government response yesterday.

In their desperate search for a scapegoat for the growing chaos of its operation to crush Chechen separatism, three separate ministries, including the foreign ministry, accused unnamed foreign powers of seeking to destabilise the Caucasus.

The Service of Foreign Reconnaissance accused Turkey of tacitly helping the cause of the Chechen separatists. Tatiana Samoilis, its press spokeswoman, said: "The SVR has several times informed the leadership of the Russian Federation that the official authorities in Turkey are turning a blind eye to the activities of Chechen terrorists."

Although relations between Turkey and Russia are sensitive, erupting in spats over the status of the Azeri enclave of Nakhichevan, Russia rarely complains officially. These statements mark the start of what many analysts see as a more overtly nationalist line.

News in brief

- Five executed in Nigeria**
An assistant police commissioner in Nigeria begged for forgiveness before being executed for armed robbery, as hundreds of people watched, at a prison in the north-west state of Kebbi, where the case was tried.
A sergeant and three civilians convicted in the same case also were shot by firing squad on Tuesday. — AP.
- Fridge horror**
Portuguese police have arrested a woman, aged 46, who kept a dead baby in her fridge for nine years, newspapers reported yesterday. — AP.
- Bangladesh closed**
A day-long general strike called by opposition parties shut down much of Bangladesh yesterday. — Reuters.
- Fine point saver**
A Dutch man, aged 25, convicted of killing his mother with a ballpoint pen fired from a crossbow, has been released from custody after tests apparently proved he could not have killed her that way. — AP.
- Mugabe challenge**
Abel Muzorewa, Zimbabwe's first black prime minister and a bishop, said yesterday he will challenge President Robert Mugabe in their coming presidential polls. — AP.

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12/1/96

Rightwingers block efforts to eliminate sweeteners

Turkey's 'gifts to MEPs' under fire

John Palmer in Strasbourg

THE president of the European Parliament, Klaus Haensch, ordered an inquiry last night into allegations that Turkey gave presents to MEPs to thank them for approving a customs union agreement with Ankara last month.

But as that inquiry began, parliamentary attempts to regulate payments made to MEPs by outside lobbyists ended in chaos and acrimony. Two resolutions which would have made it mandatory for both lobbyists and MEPs to report gifts worth £800 a year were referred back to committee, because of opposition from Conservative, Christian Democrat and other right-wing groups.

The author of one of the resolutions, Glyn Ford, the Labour member for Manchester East, said last night that the result was a blow to the credibility of the Parliament and its campaign for greater powers in the Union.

"What happened today will delight the Euro-sceptics. The majority of MEPs certainly are not corrupt, but the activities of perhaps a dirty

dozen or so members could bring the entire assembly into disrepute," he said.

Christian Democrat and Conservative MEPs insisted yesterday that they were opposed to any outside gift being made to a European parliamentarian. But earlier their leaders had said that an initial limit of £200 in cash or kind was "too restrictive and too intrusive".

The European Parliament has already introduced a register of members' interests and drawn up rules for the growing number of industrial and other lobby organisations active in Brussels and Strasbourg. During the debate allegations were made that an international tobacco company had paid for an MEP's research staff, and that governments seeking to influence parliamentary resolutions had paid for MEPs' holidays.

"The fact is that before the resolution approving Turkey's customs union agreement with the EU was passed last month, some MEPs were taken on trips paid for by the Turkish government," Mr Ford declared. "Since the vote those MEPs who voted in favour of the agreement have been given gifts of CDs by the Ankara government."

Mr Haensch said yesterday that it would be "insulting to the dignity and independence of this parliament for members to accept gifts in gratitude for the way they voted". He said he had just heard about the charge and would be looking into it. "But I do not have powers to prevent such gifts being offered or being received."

Mr Haensch presented the parliament's human rights award to the husband of an imprisoned Turkish Kurdish MP, Leyla Zana, yesterday. During the ceremony, Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of President Mitterrand, said she had been "horrified" at the parliament's decision to abandon its insistence on a radical improvement in Turkey's human rights before approving the customs union.

To the obvious embarrassment of Mr Haensch, Mrs Mitterrand continued: "I fear this award of the Sakharov prize to Leyla Zana by the European Parliament is no more than some sugar on a very bitter pill."

The president intervened to say that MEPs had approved the agreement in the belief that it would strengthen their hand to press for continued reforms in Turkey.



Trial moves... Silvio Berlusconi's lawyer gesticulates during the opening of the bribery case in Milan yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: LUCA BRUNO

Italy's TV tycoon plays to court crowd

John Hooper in Rome

ADEFLANT and jocular Silvio Berlusconi tried yesterday to turn the opening day of his trial for bribery into a public relations triumph.

The Milan court's first — and arguably ironic — ruling saved the media mogul from ordeal by television. The judges decided that the proceedings should not be transmitted live, but could be recorded for news bulletins.

The leader of the Italian right, prime minister for seven turbulent months in 1994, used a break in the proceedings to declare: "I do not consider myself a defendant."

He arrived for the hearing soberly but elegantly dressed in a grey suit and blue shirt. The man who controls half of Italy's television was soon looking relaxed and even cracking jokes.

Some of the journalists covering the trial had to be accommodated in a cage built to hold Red Brigades defendants. A grinning Mr Berlusconi sauntered up to the bars to tell them: "At last, you've been put in the right place."

In the lunch break, the billionaire politician, who is also chairman of AC Milan, was mobbed by supporters in

the courtroom cafeteria and spent much of his time signing autographs. Many of his admirers wanted to know whether he intended buying the young Ajax striker Patrick Kluijvert.

The judges, by contrast, wish to know whether Mr Berlusconi had anything to do with the £160,000 which, it is alleged, his Fininvest empire paid out in return for lenient tax audits. Mr Berlusconi, his younger brother Paolo, and nine others are charged with either giving or taking the bribes between 1993 and 1991.

Prosecutors have said that the tycoon's control of his

companies' affairs was so all-encompassing he must have known of the payments.

Mr Berlusconi's defence works at several levels. He denies he was aware of the payments and claims they were extorted by members of the revenue guard. That is for the courts.

To the wider public forum, he has repeatedly denounced a plot, allegedly cooked up by the prosecutors. It was the same prosecutors who launched the so-called "Clean Hands" drive against corruption and led the campaign against Mr Berlusconi's efforts to curb their powers when he was prime minister.

But his arguments have sounded less specious in recent weeks since charges of extortion and abuse of office were levelled at Antonio Di Pietro, the former prosecutor who led the Berlusconi investigation. In an interview yesterday Milan's chief prosecutor, Francesco Saverio Borrelli, insisted that the trial was "like any other".

When he left the courthouse yesterday, Mr Berlusconi had reason to feel satisfied with a characteristically debonair performance. But he must have also been aware that only the outcome will decide whether his political career can survive his arraignment.

Kinkel rejects Major's à la carte European union and warns Britain not to miss the integration boat

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY took its federalist European agenda to Oxford last night, where the foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, delivered an impassioned plea for Britain to end its ambivalence towards European integration and join Bonn and Paris in the drive towards common policy-making.

"It is better to catch the boat than swim after it," he said, opening a centre for the study of European law at Oxford University. "Europe needs Britain. But does Britain also not need Europe? The British contribution is indispensable."

Mr Kinkel strongly re-

affirmed Bonn's commitment to federalist policies that are viewed with reservation in Britain — from a single European currency, to common foreign, defence and security policies.

He called for a "fundamental review" of working methods in the European Commission and Council, and set his face against an à la carte European Union, as proposed by John Major, whose members could opt in and out of policy areas.

Backing a "hard core" inner EU club, he said Bonn would push at this year's EU inter-governmental conference for greater integration.

Although Bonn officials have despaired of talking

the British round, Mr Kinkel's Oxford pitch seemed aimed at forging a triangular Bonn-Paris-London axis.

He dismissed British Euroscepticism. "Europe must not regress into a community of convenience in pursuit of free trade and prosperity," he said.

The ultimate aim of German EU policy, he signalled, was "political union". Bonn viewed the single currency as a means to that end.

Mr Kinkel described Anglo-German ties as "an alliance of convictions" — a "friendship, unexpectant and down-to-earth, but very close and intense".

Hugo Young, page 9

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stand by Muslims

News in brief Five executed in Nigeria

Fridge home

Barry's death

Fire at school

Magpie caught

Cars in need of a service

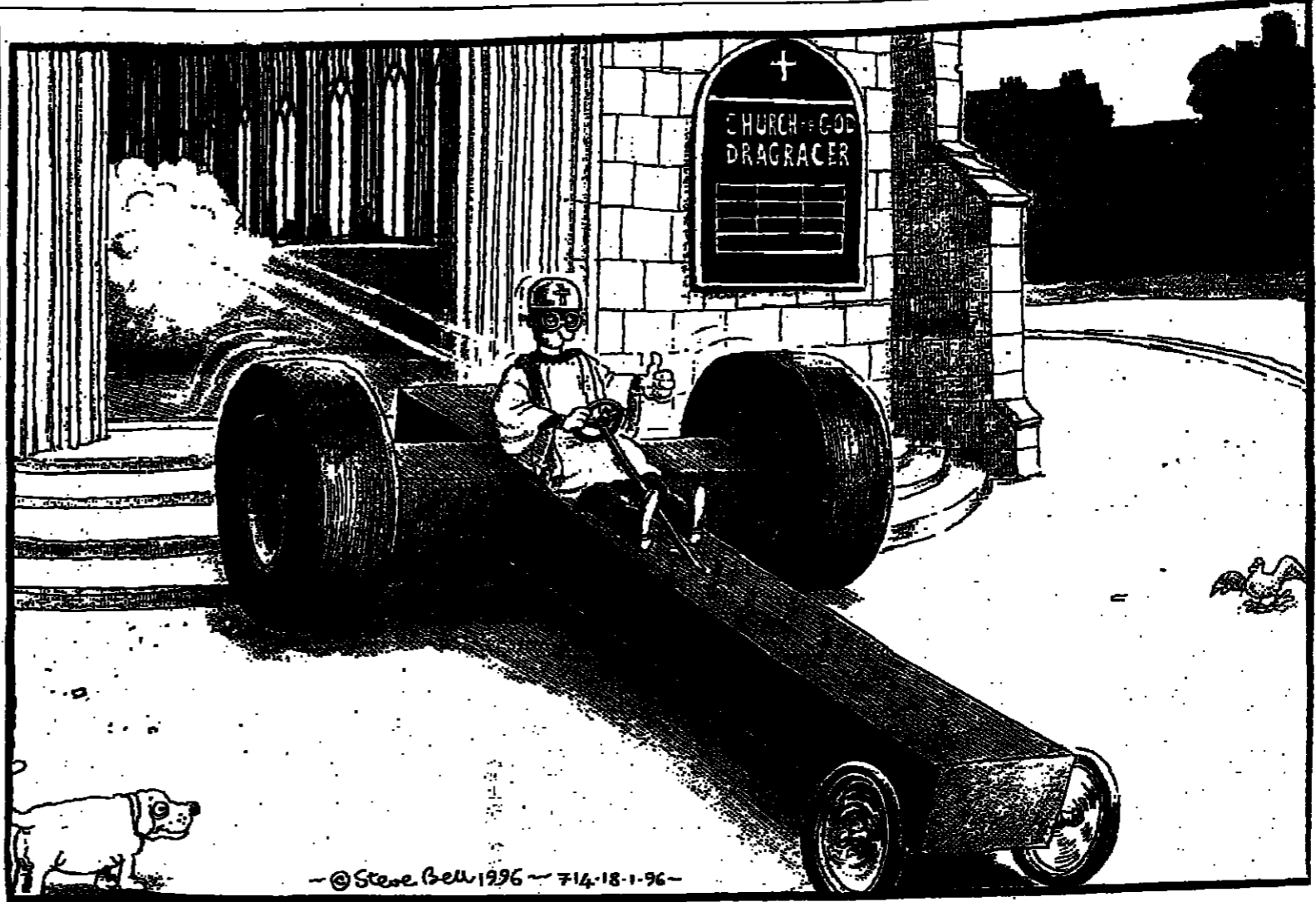
But what will they look like in the next century?

IN OCTOBER 1895 the Daily Chronicle reported that a name had still not been found for horseless carriages though a Mr F R Sims had suggested "motor car". By 1896 the first Motor Car Club had been formed and yesterday the first 100 years of the car was celebrated in the cathedral at Coventry. A cathedral is an aptly symbolic place to celebrate an artefact that has replaced religion in many people's lives. The service could be seen both as a celebration for what has undoubtedly been one of the most liberating influences of the twentieth century and also as a memorial not only for all the accidents and pollution — often needlessly — caused by the car but for domestic motor manufacturing. All our major car companies are now foreign-owned though we are still pre-eminent at designing and building hi-tech Formula 1 and Indy cars. They don't require the debilitating culture of the production line to which we have never fully become reconciled.

We are at last starting the long journey to come to terms with the car's place in society. It will continue to be a liberating influence — without any serious competition for door-to-door transport — but no longer will we build the rest of the world around it (out-of-town malls, unlimited car parks, company car perks and so on). It will have to fit the needs of a more enlightened pollution-conscious society which will demand uncluttered city centres, effective mass transit systems to convey people to work and a huge expansion of proper cycle lanes leaving the car to be used for essential journeys and recreation. The designers of the early 20 mph vehicles with flag wavers in front would be horrified if they saw these same roads conveying vehicles driving at 70 mph in opposite directions separated by only a few feet.

So, what will the car look like towards the end of the next century?

The vision of a driverless "intelligent" car transporting us across the motorway system propelled by magnetic levitation and guided by satellite navigation systems — while being prevented from crashing into the car in front by sensor rays — is technologically feasible, but probably won't happen. The consequences of a catastrophic crash through computer failure would be horrendous and it might well be the car companies that would be sued. So they won't risk it. Drivers must remain responsible for their vehicles. Computers will continue their invasion of the inside of the car, but externally their main role may be sophisticated traffic and route control. During the next century the iron grip of the oil industry on the car is likely to be broken as cleaner sources of power like hydrogen are used. Some see a big future for a revived steam engine. Tyres may become redundant if magnetic levitation is applied but more likely a similar effect will be achieved by hi-tech tyres whose contact with the ground will shrink almost to nothingness at high speeds but whose "footprint" will spread out as the car slows. The more enlightened car companies, browned off with being part of the problem, will try to become part of the solution by involving themselves with mass transit systems and pre-empting environmental criticism. This could even be good business if the market supports two kinds of vehicle for each family: one a light, energy-efficient one-seater occupying half of the present road width for commuting, plus a recreational vehicle for essential longer distances. It is, of course, also possible that, just as slide-rule manufacturers were driven out of business by calculator companies, that some new form of transport might drive the motor manufacturers off the road just as effectively as they killed off horse power. Beam me up Scottie.



Letters to the Editor

In search of stakeholding

THESE is a simple reason why the tax burden has risen by £736 billion since 1979 (Leader, January 15) and, on the Government's own figures, is set to rise as a share of national income each year this century. If high taxpayers are now being forced to pay the £20 billion-a-year bill of keeping over two million people out of work.

This is because — rather than investing for the future, offering people opportunity, especially the young and long-term unemployed, to move from welfare into work, as Labour advocates — the Tories are making taxpayers pay the price of the Government's failed management of the economy.

Labour is conducting a wide-ranging and comprehensive consultation and review on corporate tax policy (Blair's interview, January 16). The clear objective of this process is to find measures which lift legal, fiscal and institutional obstacles to long-term investment. It is incorrect to say we are "close to completing detailed plans". And at no time has Labour stated that we "have been looking at offering tax breaks for pension funds that maintain investment in companies long-term and tax incentives for companies favouring investment over dividends".

Our critics review the morals on display in the Tate gallery

DR NICHOLAS Tate was my history tutor at Moray House College, Edinburgh, in the 1980s, and I never understood him until I read Jake Piergies's letter (January 17). Many of us student teachers used to debate seriously whether Dr Tate could survive a class of 30 kids — and we concluded that he couldn't.

Dr Tate used to walk into a centrally heated Scottish classroom and stand at the back talking notes, keeping his trench-coat on. I kept wondering why he wasn't more interactive with the pupils, like the other teacher-trainers, and why he wasn't more relaxed in the class.

When it's best not to be best

A curious technological moral lies behind Apple's problems

IT'S a tough world. After months of fretting about which computer to buy, you stump up the extra cash and go for an Apple Mac. Instantly, you're a connoisseur of the very best in information technology. And you've joined a select club in which only one in ten people with a personal computer belongs. You've even struck a blow against the dominating presence of Bill Gates and Microsoft, the company that provides the software that keeps the PC market running. You feel really good. The Mac is so easy to use, and it looks great. Then, the news starts dribbling in. Apple Computer is in trouble. Thousands of employees lose their jobs, including senior management. Healthy profits have disappeared and the company is selling off computers at a hefty discount. If Apple does survive, say the pundits, it looks likely to concentrate on corporate customers leaving the cut-throat consumer market to the dealers — and Bill Gates. Oh dear. What happens next? Will there be someone to fix your machine if it goes wrong, who will provide new software, and how much will this specialist knowledge cost as the years go by and fewer and fewer people remember that the Mac was once a personal computer too? Apple's plight is another sad tale of clever technology gone wrong. And it doesn't do much good for consumer in research and development, in technology, nor in major corporations. Why do they spend time and money creating the best technical solutions if, ultimately,

you're left holding a product that no one can be bothered with? Remember how consumers burned their fingers in the early 1980s after the three-way battle to establish a standard video tape format? The Philips 2000 format was by far and away the best system, technically, and Betamax from Sony was not that bad either. But, as we now know, VHS from Matsushita won through. A few years later, there was the tussle to dispense with the PAL broadcasting system for satellite TV in favour of the superior D-MAC (no relation) system. But Sky wouldn't have it — for justifiable commercial reasons — and D-MAC languished. Neither would Sky have the squarish, that innovative receiver developed by the ill-fated BSB for satellite broadcasting. The squarish was cleverer than Sky's conventional receiving dish, and less obstructive, but that didn't help. There will always be great technical developments that present little trouble, such as the evolution of sound production from wax cylinders to records to CDs to, eventually, solid-state mini-cubes of some sort or another. Then there are the innovations that look suspect from the outset, such as the 3D camera and the Sir Clive Sinclair's C5 electric car. Corporations are only just learning that they need to sustain consumer confidence in the clever technologies they develop by talking rather than tussling. But wait for the battle to establish global mobile telecommunications. And, just remember, good guys come second.

At the last count

SOME years ago I was seconded from my Department of Health post to the Home Office to join the project team for rebuilding Holloway Prison. I knew little about prisons but quite a lot about designing services for the mentally ill. At the time the Home Office reckoned that about half of women prisoners had mental health problems.

The project rapidly became a nightmare as the Home Office rehabilitationists and redistributionists alternately held sway over policy and the design swung between Alcatraz and Buitins. I gave up and returned to producing hospitals.

But one interesting view emerged. At my first meeting I asked the then governor the "idiot boy" question: "What would happen if the main gates of Holloway were opened wide?" Her response was enlightening: "Most of them would go back to their husbands and children — we could collect 90 per cent of them in the morning."

I WONDER if the David Rendel MP who so enthusiastically supported the Newbury bypass is related to the David Rendel MP who had a letter published in the Guardian's Notes and Queries on November 23 1994? That David Rendel described his gallant attempts to alleviate the road noise suffered by his constituents in East Isley, a village alongside the A24 about 10 miles north of Newbury. The Newbury bypass, supported by the other David Rendel, will, of course, attract more traffic to the A34 and cause more road noise in East Isley.

THE reported use of the expressions "penis" and "women" in the Bible Society's Contemporary English Version of the Book of Leviticus (Action-packed Bible's graceless prose for TV era drops the ark and the manet. January 16) appals me. Snob words have historically been part of the language of our common people, but wasn't this all before the Roman legions departed our shores? Yes, it's those stalwart Saxon invaders my hat goes in the air for, raping, pillaging and gifted with a coarser speech

most ordinary folk have allowed in ever since. Geoffrey N Armitage. Church Street, Dufftown, Keith, Banffshire AB55.

Sex (not in the biblical sense)

CONSIDER US LIES — WE TOIL NOT, NEITHER DO WE SPIN

THE proposal to reduce biblical texts to the soulless jargon of today is too appalling to contemplate. "Consider the lilies of the field; they toil neither do they spin" — is this an improvement? "The flowers do not work?" Heywood Old Road, Middleton, Manchester M24.

Stage fight

WE ARE delighted that you feel, as we do, that Jeremy Isaacs is "gratulated for letting the cameras into the Opera House" (Leader, Guardian 16). But we take exception to the description of the behaviour of senior managers as portrayed in our films as "stabsomful".

THE great American moral educator Lawrence Kohlberg at one stage believed that young people would develop morally through the theoretical consideration of moral dilemmas. He later discovered that it was far more effective to include pupils in taking responsibility for the ethical/moral dilemmas of running the school community. Self-esteem and moral learning were both enhanced.

As Mary Midgley says (Rights and Wrongs, January 16), Nicholas Tate will probably not include children in his new curriculum committee. We must listen more carefully to young people if we want them to listen to us. It is a proven route to moral learning and growth of responsibility, and would be preparation for stakeholding in Tony Blair's new society, not to mention employees of Will Hutton's reformed companies.

Finally, whatever you think of his style, Keith Cooper would have been even more severely criticised for failing in his duty had he not dealt firmly with the problems in the box office.

Andrew Bethell, Michael Waldman, Producers, The House, Double Exposure Ltd, Unit 22, 63 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5PS.

A minefield

JOHN HUGHES of RTZ (Letters, January 17) argues that no indigenous people have been forcibly removed from the land because of the operations of the Freeport copper and gold mine. Yet only last year, the Indonesian military announced that 2,000 people in the area will have to vacate their lands to make way for "development" in the vicinity of the mine.

A Country Diary

INVERNESS: A telephone call queried why animals had spent the night in a hut circle just north of Inverness where tracks in the snow indicated that a large number had been involved. Walking the fields later in the day I saw many tracks converging on the stones but I was not prepared for what I found. There were many tracks within the circle of stones but then, immediately next to a huge stone several feet high and across and about six inches thick, was an amazing sight. For about three quarters of an acre there were so many tracks that I could not find a void of tracks or droppings. All the tracks were made by brown hares — the altitude was too low for mountain hares — and it was obvious that large numbers of hares had been involved. Reference books mention the gatherings of brown hares have been seen in the past with up to 40 animals involved. The mystery is why such gatherings take place although one sug-

gestion is that it gives the males the chance to show off to the females. But this gathering took place with eight inches of snow on the ground and it was obvious that the hares had travelled some distance for whatever ceremony was involved. Brown hares are so mysterious that I would not be surprised if the location had something to do with the ancient hut circle but there may be a simpler explanation. If you took away the local conifer plantations from the hut circle, there would be commanding views of the strath. This would enable hares to see each other moving towards the site and, once they were there, any predators such as foxes could be seen from a long way off. In such deep snow, hare tracks are one of the few that can be recognised but badgers are another as their short legs mean that their chests form a broad furrow between their footprints.

The mood changes at the Palace

Free-spending duchesses, like directors, must be reined in

IN A FIGHT for survival, ruthlessness is all, and Buckingham Palace showed its battle readiness yesterday. Within hours of the publication of a series of allegations about the dire state of the Duchess's finances, the Palace hoisted the drawbridge on her. It made utterly clear that there will be no royal bail-out of the free-spending Duchess. Whatever the truth of yesterday's allegations, the Duchess's reputation, which has slipped steadily downwards for some time, seems poised to go into free fall. The Palace is rightly determined not to be dragged down further by her.

shows that the collapse of the royal marriages is not just a private but a public problem. The disaffected royal daughters-in-law have it in their power to ensure the monarchy in disputes which will weaken its credibility. It is increasingly clear that not even divorce will necessarily protect the Palace from prolonged public attack.

READ with interest Muriel Granger's letter (January 13). My father, now 80, was born and brought up in Cumberland, and he would recite to me when I was a child, almost as a nursery rhyme: "Yan, tan, tethere, fether, mether..." Unfortunately neither he nor I can remember how to continue the count from six to 10.

PLEASE include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

RAY COLLIER

RAY COLLIER

Diary Matthew Norman

FROM Westminster comes a sign of a potentially thrilling political rehabilitation. After nine years as an MP, Ken Livingstone (who graces the basement of this page today) has been asked to represent his party, and will sit on the committee scrutinising the new Audit Bill. The Bill will increase district auditors' power of investigation...

A catastrophic reverse for Sir Rocco Forte, my same and rational friend Paul Johnson, who in an article supporting him in the Telegraph. The odds on Granada winning the takeover scrap have been accordingly slashed.

RATINGS triumph is celebrated at the Mirror Group.avidly watched cable channel Live TV, thanks to Newsy Rabbit, the six-foot bunny currently spearheading the station's lurch upmarket. News appears in the corner of the screen during news bulletins, and reacts emotionally to individual...

WHITEHALL document (secret, of course, in accordance with the drive for open government) has been passed to the Diary. It is the newly published Guidance on Guidance. A follow up to the best seller Guidance, it is apparently designed to help civil servants to find central guidance on a variety of topics...

WITH the tacit approval of Her Majesty, the Diary is campaigning to discredit the American muck-raker Kitty Kelley in advance of her much-hyped royal biography. It is not for us to repeat groundless rumours (Prince Andrew being the Earl of Carnarvon's son, for example, or Philip suffering attacks of pancreatitis in the company of actresses) that may or may not feature in the book...

SOMERSET businessman just returned from Canada reports seeing the following sign in a New Brunswick hotel bedroom: "If you wish your telephone to be connected, call the receptionist."

Out of Europe, something new

Commentary Hugo Young

THE MOMENT is arriving when the market in the British body politic. The pressure of the monetary question can be lifted from the root-canal. There will still be much to decide when the Turin summit kicks off the 1996 Inter-Governmental Conference in March...

The single currency has become all that counts in the British Euro-argument. It's what Euro-phobes show their virility by abominating, what Euro-philites ultimately support, and what governing politicians are required to handle with ever less convincing prevarication...

Even if EMU is merely postponed, which is what everyone will say has happened, this will be a savage blow to European integration. The political classes of both main continental countries are utterly committed to EMU. Postponement may show, through time, that it is impractical anyway...

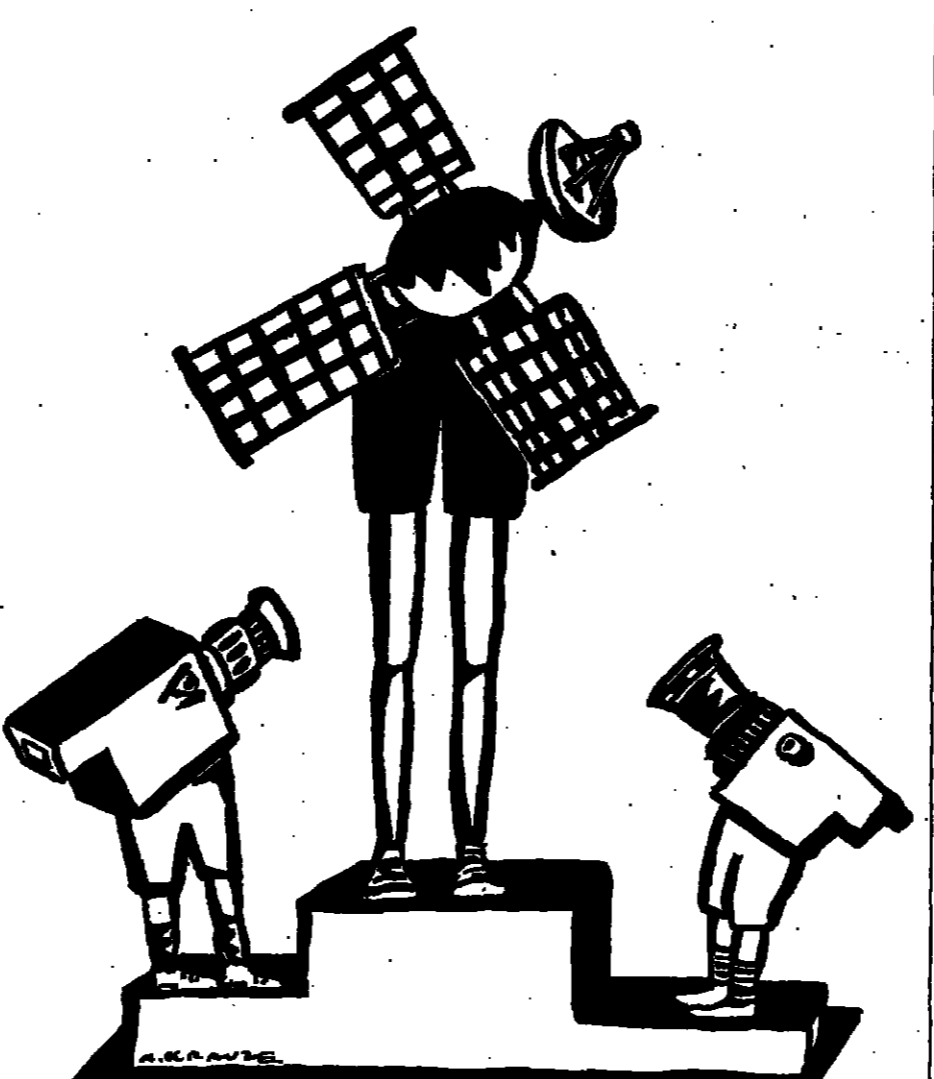
Very few British politicians actively want EMU. Most are in a much more agonising position. Apart from the faction which is opposed on principle, the vast majority acknowledge an unpleasant dilemma. They don't want a single currency, but they're in different degrees terrified of being left out of one...

with: namely that the only right line for Britain is some form of disengagement from the EU. In the last year, this has gingerly made its way into the discourse of Tory politicians, even talking to people like me whom they know to be their critics...

David Elstein wants to see sports authorities able to negotiate television rights without government interference, regulation or special treatment of the BBC

Free the skies for sport

THE BBC thrived best when the market in sports rights was non-existent. Sport has always been one of its cheapest programme genres. Under the new market conditions, it has enlarged its sports budget and maintained its level of sports transmission...



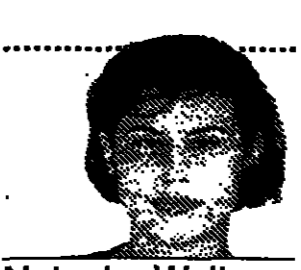
It is an unfair and undeserved penalty. I have heard politicians describe sports bodies generally as third-rate. Well, they are not above criticism: we are all on a learning curve...

gate pricing is simply making the paying sports fan at the ground subsidise the non-paying fan in the armchair. Listed events were first introduced in the 1990s, when ITV started in just one or two regions...

households. In 1990, the law changed so that a reduced list of eight events would not be allowed to go on an exclusive basis to pay-per-view television...

All bodies warmly welcome the huge increase in revenue, coverage and bargaining power that the creation of a true market in television rights has brought them. They can all see the disadvantages in the proposed amendments to the new Broadcasting Bill...

Dead women who suit the news agenda



Natasha Walter

DEAD women tell tales. Through the tragedies that we choose to talk about and the ways we talk about them, we don't just grieve, we also forge myths that seek to make sense of their deaths. But how much sense are we making? When Johanne Masheder's body was found in a ravine in Thailand the Daily Mail, the newspaper that has the fastest growing readership in Britain, asked, "Why do young girls risk their lives on the back-pack trail?"

ity of young women who backpack and hitchhike but the vulnerability of young people to drugs. "The message to the children is - don't take drugs," said her parents, while her picture was used in a warning campaign next to the message: "Sorted." If this simple message failed to spark the desired response in young people, perhaps that was because every one time they heard it, they could hear ten more attractive tales from their friends about taking ecstasy with no ill effects. And a question mark hung over Leah's death. Was it a direct reaction to the ecstasy tablet that killed her, or drinking gallons of water in the false belief that this is an antidote to the drug? If her story had been pushed in less simple terms, to include her way of death, perhaps it would have prevented Helen Cousins falling into a coma from drinking seven litres of water after taking ecstasy two months later.

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The Party's not over

Ken Livingstone sympathises with Arthur Scargill but thinks he could have won his battle for socialism within Labour

ARTHUR SCARGILL'S decision to leave the Labour Party will come as no surprise to anyone who saw how depressed and frustrated he was at the last Labour Party conference, when he failed to reverse the decision on dropping Clause 4. It must seem to many in the Labour Party that he has never before had a leader in such complete control of all the levers of power. Policy is made on the hoof by spin doctors and there is no real consultation with anyone outside the magic circle of the leader's retinue.

major shift of Labour thinking against the welfare state and talked of the need for a merger with the Liberal Democrats to replace Labour's reliance on the trade unions. But like most of the British media, Arthur has paid too much attention to the outpourings of the spin doctors and has failed to analyse the real balance of power inside the Labour Party. Tony Blair was given a valuable history lesson at last year's Labour Party conference when he faced defeat on the vote committing Labour to a 24-an-hour minimum wage. In the classic pattern that Labour leaders on Ramsey MacDonald on would have recognised, the campaign agenda was fixed at

a meeting between representatives of the trade union leaders and Tony Blair. The change for their commitment not to embarrass Labour on the minimum wage, it was made clear to them that there would be no further reduction in the size of the trade-union vote at Labour conferences at any time in the future. It is when one looks at the three main components of the Labour Party that it becomes harder to understand Arthur's decision to leave. TGWU, the GMB and Unison are the three biggest trade-union affiliates. They have all made clear their support for a minimum wage, full employment and the defence of the welfare state. Unlike previous times, Labour's trade unions are speaking with one voice and for clearly socialist economic policies. There has been much talk that the 120,000 Labour Party members who have

joined since Tony Blair became leader, change the nature of local Labour parties. Yet when these new members cast their postal ballots for Labour's NEC last year, the votes for the left candidates increased by over twice as much as for those identified with the leadership. Inside the Parliamentary Labour Party, though there was a massive campaign of arm-twisting by the so-called modernisers to purge the Shadow Cabinet of what they dismissively called Labour traditionalists (eg Joan Lester), when the votes were counted all those who had been targeted for removal saw a massive increase in their votes. The modernisers' slate of Blairite candidates failed to get more than a third of MPs' support.

understand or even, I suspect, like the Labour Party. They talk privately about The Project, as they call their plan to transform the Labour Party into a pale imitation of the American Democratic Party. Labour will come to power at a time of worsening economic performance. The modernisers' belief that they can "think the unthinkable about the welfare state" and try to repeat the strategy of President Chirac in France is doomed to fail. I believe that within a few months of taking office, Tony Blair will face the stark choice of governing with the consent of the Labour Party and its supporters in the trade unions, or finding himself in a minority in his own Cabinet. And that stage real politics will come into play. If it is a tragedy for Arthur, and the small number who will follow him, that he will not be around to take part in these decisive struggles for the future of the Labour movement and the next Labour government. The writer is MP for Brent East

Patrick Bowles

Waiting for Beckett

PATRICK Bowles, who has died aged 68, was a student when chosen by Samuel Beckett to translate his novel, *Molloy*, from the original French. The two men collaborated on what was, in effect, a new book: Beckett typically gracious, later said that it was better in English.

News of Bowles's death in Spain has reached his old literary circle only now, eight months later. He had lived for several years near Alicante with his wife and their two children, and had been ill for some time. "Most mornings I wake wondering if I am strong enough to face another day. Nothing is less certain," Beckett typewrote his friend Christopher Logue last January, showing a stoical forbearance worthy of one of his mentor's creations. Only a week ago did Logue learn that Bowles had died last May, after a stroke.

In 1954, more than 40 years after his first meeting with Beckett, Bowles wrote a long account of their collaboration. It is fascinating not only for the account of the rendering of a novel from the foreign language into the author's native tongue, but also for the way it shows Beckett in action in Paris. The two men met usually in the Café Select on Boulevard Montparnasse. One day, they applied themselves to finding an English equivalent for the passage which describes Molloy's new-found friend, Lousse, and her foul-mouthed parrot. In the book, the passage goes: "Fuck the son-of-a-bitch. Fuck the son-of-a-bitch. Fuck the son-of-a-bitch. He must have belonged to an American sailor, before he belonged to Lousse. Pests often change masters. He didn't say much else. No, I'm wrong, he also said, 'Maintien de merdier, fuck the son-of-a-bitch.' He must have belonged to a French sailor before he belonged to the American sailor... Lousse tried to make him say, 'Pretty Polly! I think it was too late. He listened, his head on one side, pondered, and then said, 'Fuck the son-of-a-bitch.' It was clear he was doing his best."

Beckett and Bowles spent

most of the morning in the Select "swearing experimentally at each other". The American original doesn't exist in the original French version. However, as Bowles explained: "I was sorry to see Beckett's searing French expletives go, so after we had worked our way round the fairly mild American version, I suggested there was no reason why the parrot should not have three masters in the English version."

This was agreed and part of the original French was retained in the English revealing (the parrot's) hitherto unsuspected talent for bilingual expression. Fortunately, there were only a few customers taking morning coffee that day in the Select.

Beckett also taught his protégé about failure. "These beggars under the Pont Neuf," the Irishman once told Bowles. "That's a kind of success. It's a kind of absolute failure, total failure, but we can't even have that..."

In Paris in the early 1950s, Bowles was one of a group of talented young men, dubbed affectionately by Beckett "the Merlin juveniles". Merlin was the name of the magazine into which they channelled their literary energies, and Beckett — thought to be unreadable by English publishers, and when readable, un-sellable — was their cause. In addition to Bowles and the poet John Berryman, members of the team were the magazine's Scottish editor, Alexander Trocchi, later the author of a remarkable novel, *Cain's Book*; Austryn Wainhouse, an American who undertook the task of translating the *Marquis de Sade* into English (without much hope of publication, those versions are now the established ones); and Richard Seaver, now a New York publisher, who discovered Beckett's French novels in a tiny display window in the Latin Quarter and introduced them — and subsequently Beckett himself — to the editors of *Merlin*. The English *Molloy* was originally published in March 1955 under the magazine's own imprint, *Collection Merlin*, by then a subsidiary of a dozen volumes for the Olympia Press, by authors ranging from Alfred de Mus-



Patrick Bowles, Merlin's publisher Jane Lougee, and Christopher Logue in Paris in 1953

PHOTOGRAPH: OTTO VAN NOPPEN

London and raised partly in Rhodesia, had come to Paris and the Sorbonne to write a thesis in comparative literature anchored on James Joyce. At the time he met Logue and Trocchi, he was making weekly cycling trips between Paris and Le Havre (220 kilometres each way) in order to earn a little money as an assistant *anglais* at the Lycée du Havre.

Later, he worked the night shift at Agence-France Presse, where "all my fellow shift-men were writers, either aspiring writers, failed writers, failing writers or, in exceptional cases, successful writers". Following further wanderings in Europe, he settled down to a career as a translator (from French and Portuguese) in the World Health Organisation at the UN, in Brazzaville, Congo. In Paris, Bowles published fiction and poetry in the little magazines of the *LeR Bank*

including *Points*, the *Paris Review*, and *Merlin* itself. But, while the other juveniles achieved success in seniority in their respective fields, Bowles's own literary work never broke free of his term of hard labour with Beckett. It took the two men 15 months to complete the translation, and while he could shake his head in wonder at the intensity and precision which Beckett demanded, it was clearly the high point of Bowles's literary life.

He may have been hindered by his aspirations, his beliefs, that fiction should have a strong philosophical content. All the other members of the *Merlin* stable were involved, either as authors or translators, in feeding Gironde's appetite for publishable erotica. Wainhouse, for example, translated roughly a dozen volumes for the Olympia Press, by authors ranging from Alfred de Mus-

set to Jean Cocteau, Trocchi was prolific down in the lower depths, producing pornographic pot-boilers with titles such as *White Thighs* and *School For Sin*. But, while Bowles appreciated Trocchi's various talents, and gave him credit for quickly grasping the significance of Beckett's work, he was against the production of dirty books for Olympia, even when the money generated by writing them — and the labour was quite profitable for these young writers — could be ploughed back into *Merlin*. Bowles's view, as he saw it, was: "If you're going to attempt an erotic masterpiece, fine. But why write down?"

After Paris, Bowles went to Berlin, "a strange and mysterious period of my life", living in voluntary solitude, observing the eccentricities of his neighbours, such as the woman who told him life was "heavenly" in Berlin during the war, and then that she had lost two flames in the fighting, writing it all down in notebooks for a literary work that was never to come into being. Eventually his work at the UN took him to the Congo, where he spent 15 years, and met his wife, Albertine. Throughout his decades of wandering, Bowles carried with him the journal in which he had recorded his regular grind on the English version of *Molloy*. The entry for November 18, 1955, reads: "Meeting with Beckett. This kind of writing can even kill a man. There are men who have been killed by it." It didn't kill Patrick Bowles. In a certain sense, he lived for it.

James Campbell

Patrick Bowles, writer and translator, born April 24, 1927; died May 21, 1995

Sir William Trethowan

Lord of the ring signs

PROFESSOR Sir William Trethowan, who has died aged 78, was one of Britain's most influential psychiatrists; professor of psychiatry, first at Sydney University, then later at Birmingham; he was an outstanding teacher, clinician and psychopathologist.

Trethowan was born into a medical family: his father was an orthopaedic surgeon at Guy's Hospital, London, and his mother trained in medicine after her husband's death — qualifying in the same year as her son. He was educated at Gundle School and Clare College, Cambridge, where he was musical director of the Footlights, a jazz trumpeter, and composer of a successful musical comedy. It was here he met his first wife, Pamela, an actress singing in a band, the *Armintheans*, for whom Trethowan played and also conducted.

After qualifying in medicine at Guy's, he served as a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, then in the second world war. He then trained in psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital, in south London, before working at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1951, he became honorary teaching fellow at Harvard and was later lecturer, then senior lecturer at Manchester University, where he developed and refined his long-term interest in descriptive psycho-pathology: the precise and observant use of history-taking and meaningful examination of the mental state.

Later, he wrote an intriguing paper on the observation of physical signs in psychiatry, including "Trethowan's ring signs" that is, when a married subject persistently slides his or her wedding ring off and on while being interviewed.

From 1956 to 1962, Trethowan was professor of psychiatry and honorary consultant psychiatrist in Sydney. Here he first showed his interest in contributing beyond the walls of the hospital or medical school. He regarded his remit as the improvement of mental health services in New South Wales, so he got involved in revising the Mental Health Act, and advised the government and other bodies.

He was head-hunted for the new chair in psychiatry at Birmingham University, which he amply filled until his retirement in 1982. As dean of Birmingham Medical School during the period of student protest from 1968 to 1974, he

was liked and respected by both students and staff. Increasingly he was asked to serve on numerous national bodies and consistently showed impeccable judgment and an urbane sense of humour. He became the first chief examiner of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, for which he strove to set high clinical standards and academic credibility. With his longtime friend, the late Professor Kenneth Rawnsley, then dean of the RCP, he set about improving training and clinical practice in psychiatry throughout Britain and the Irish Republic by concentrating on the weakest and most isolated mental hospitals.

Towards the end of Trethowan's career, he chaired the steering committee for establishing the medical school in the new Chinese University of Hong Kong. He took great pride in its success, and much enjoyed his visits to



Trethowan: influential

the Far East — especially the food. A popular and charismatic teacher, Bill Trethowan's technique was to interest rather than bully his students — a rather rare quality in his generation. He was a clear thinker and writer and throughout his career he remained open to new ideas. With characteristic modesty, he referred to the CBE which he received in 1975, as "corruptible but efficient." He was knighted in 1980.

Pamela died in 19... and there followed a period of loneliness and illness. But, after Trethowan's second marriage to Heather in 1988, there was a return to psychiatric practice and enjoyment of life. He leaves a wife, son and two daughters.

Sir Andrew Sims

William Henry Trethowan, psychiatrist, born June 3, 1917; died December 15, 1995

Birthdays

Chief Eneke Anyaoku, Commonwealth Secretary-General, 63; Robert Banks, Conservative MP, 59; Peter Beardsley, footballer, 35; David Bellamy, botanist and broadcaster, 63; John Borman, film director, 62; Raymond Briggs, author and illustrator, 62; David Burke, chief constable, North Yorkshire, 57; Roger Carr, chairman, Countryside Commission of Scotland, 69; Richard Dawkins, 62; Sir David Forrester, MP, 61; Paul Freeman, actor, 53; Dave Greenslade, composer, musician, 53; Robert Hicks, Conservative MP, 58; Terence Higgins, Conservative MP, former Olympic athlete, 53; David Howell, MP, 59; Norman Lamont, Conservative minister, 60; John Hume, MP, leader, SDLP, 59; Dame Jennifer Jenkins, former chairman, National Trust, 75; Paul Keating, prime minister of Australia, 52; Martin Leding, chairman, John Laing Construction, 54; Constance Moore, actress, 74; Sir Peter Preston, vice-chairman, CARE Britain, 75; Sir Clive Whitmore, senior civil servant, 61.

Harry Potts

Pitching for a better Claret

HARRY Potts, who died aged 75, was Burnley football team's manager in their finest hour and, although it is unlikely that the East Lancashire soccer club will commemorate him with his name on a stand, as they have done with some other famous chairmen Bob Lord, Potts deserves some distinction.

For almost 20 years after the second world war, Burnley, founder members of the Football League, were a name in the game as their near neighbours, Blackburn Rovers, are today — "Much bigger", they will tell you around Turt Moor — and Potts, a clever, fair-haired, former inside forward with the club, was manager for 13 of those most notable years. Burnley commanded attention for their shrewd and frugal recruiting. They employed three perceptive scouts in the North-east, who



Potts: political manager

found a stream of outstanding youngsters, and, while clubs such as Newcastle United and Sunderland were renowned for the profusion of their spending, Burnley boasted of good housekeeping. They kept their place

among the city clubs by developing players cheaply and selling them for the top prices of the day — the structure and the system had been developed under chairman Lord, a local butcher, who was both autocratic and a smart businessman.

Potts succeeded as manager in 1958 to a team ripe for success, and duly delivered in 1959-60 with the club's second league championship and with a Cup Final in 1963. The Claret, as Burnley's team is known, were a good side — balanced, resilient, punchy and creative — expressing themselves through the midfield fulcrum of Jimmy Adamson and Jimmy McIlroy. It was Burnley's boast at the time that fees had been paid for only two players, the Irish international McIlroy and Alex Elder.

Potts led the side into Europe for the European

Cup quarter-finals and later into the FA Cup, the former runner of the UEFA Cup. He was not popular with the press because information, even on mundane matters, had usually to be extracted, but he left this reporter with the impression that he would like to have been more open, and could well have been under a different chairman.

With Potts at Burnley, or in Naples, in the Hamburg or Frankfurt, were wide-eyed Lancashire lads with a touch of the Irish and Geordie and a joy to travel with. When Hamburg SV played a first leg at Turt Moor they were given a morning coach tour of the city, including a visit to the new fire station. "When you come to Germany", said their smart millionaire chairman in faultless English, "we hope to show you something of the delights of our little town." What Harry

and the boys made of the Reeperbahn is probably still being discussed in Brierfield.

Ten years on, the economic tide had turned against Potts. Burnley's North-east scouts were lured away by Stoke City, their recruiting grounds were trawled by other clubs, notably Ipswich and Southampton, and, once Burnley had to wheel and deal on the same level as the rest of the First Division, their star faded. Potts returned as manager, briefly, six years later, but he must have known that the odds were against him.

He was neither charismatic nor gregarious but his players had respect for him as a diplomat. He was a political manager, an Eisenhower rather than a Montgomery or a Patton, running the show for a dictator. But, for a decade, that show had glitter and magic and, for that reason, Harry Potts will always have a place in Burnley hearts.

Derek Hodgson

Harry Potts, footballer and manager, born October 22, 1920; died January 16, 1995

Letter

Hilary Rubinstein writes: Stephanie Nettell, in her obituary of Kaye Webb (*January 17*) mentioned the award of an MBE which Kaye received in 1974. This wasn't quite the matter for congratulation that it might have been.

It is hard to exaggerate the part Kaye played in encouraging children to read books. Many men publishers have received knighthoods and some have had life peerages. No equivalent honour has ever been given to a woman, if ever a publishing woman deserved to be made a dame, it was Kaye.

I decided to campaign and received warm support from among others, Sir Edward Boyle (as he then was) who had recently been chairman of Penguin Books. Our nominations duly went to the Patronage Secretary. And the result: Kaye was made not a dame, not a CBE but the lowlier order of Member of the British Empire. I am convinced that someone had noted that children's editors traditionally received the MBE, and saw no reason to depart from the precedent. When the awards were an-

nounced, I congratulated Kaye and she made a wry smile. I know she would have loved to be a dame — and she certainly deserved the honour.

Death Notices

SUTTON, John M. (Clack), of Ferrans, passed away peacefully, after a long illness, now free of pain.

McGIBNEY, Terence KOBE, MB BCh, BAO (D.R.), M.D., M.C., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P. Formerly Director of Special Injuries, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, and Orthopaedic Surgeon, Leighton Hospital, 1956. Funeral service on 14th January at 11.00am in St. Mary's Parish Church, Northwich on Tuesday 22nd January at 11.00am in St. Mary's Church, Northwich. Donations to St. Mary's Parish Church, Northwich on Tuesday 22nd January at 11.00am in St. Mary's Church, Northwich. Inquiries to F.J. Treasurer and Son, Funeral Directors 07471 2525.

ROBINSON, Richard Gents, Artist and Designer, born 1918, died 16th of January 1996. To be buried with full rites in St. Mary's Church, Burnham Overay Town, Northwich on Thursday 18th January at 2.00pm. Friends may be sent to Lorton & Sons Ltd., 119, St. James' Street, Northwich, Cheshire. Flowers to be delivered between 4 & 5pm on Wednesday 20th of January.

Memorial Services

MEAD, James Edward, a celebration of his life will be held on Saturday 20th January at 2.00pm in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge.

to place your announcement telephone 0711 611 900

Jackdaw



Absurdist habits

WHEN Max Ernst and Dorothea Tanning went back to France, Marcel Duchamp and Teeny moved into their New York apartment, a fourth-floor walk-up on East 88th Street. The nameplate above the buzzer downstairs read "Matisse, Duchamp, Ernst". It was Duchamp who insisted they get married. A strain of bourgeois morality persisted in the notary's son, and he felt they owed it to Teeny's children to legitimize their relationship. Teeny was often surprised by Duchamp's thoughtfulness and dependability. For one thing, he left the apartment

every morning between 10 and 11, took the bus to his 14th Street studio and returned punctually at five. "He would always appear at the time he'd said he would," she marvelled. She was also struck by "how little space he took up". When they were to spend a weekend with Teeny's friend, Gardie Helm, in East Hampton, Marcel never brought a suitcase. He would wear two shirts, one on top of the other, and carry a toothbrush in his jacket pocket. Teeny shopped for his shirts in Bloomingdale's basement and eventually got him to wear some fairly rakish ones, with pink and white stripes.

By the time they got married, in 1954, Duchamp had been working for eight years on *Etant Donné* (his last work). "He worked on it all the time, but never like a workman," Teeny said. "He would work for 15 or 20 minutes, and then he'd smoke a cigar, or study chess problems, or do something else." Although Duchamp had not stopped being an artist, he had long ago ceased to act like one.

Avant-garde artist Marcel Duchamp divorced by Cathy Tomkins for the New Yorker, with the help of the artist's wife, Teeny, who died in December.

Home front

I THINK this whole emphasis on home is happening because people are looking to make lasting statements about their lives — collect and create things that will stay with them — and fill now fashion hasn't done that for them. So everyone is becoming a do-it-yourself or seeking out skilled tradesmen who can do those things for them... In terms of expressing yourself, fashion has become too easy; everything is perfectly packaged, so it doesn't take that much effort to make yourself look good. So, how do you say something about who you are? You do it through your environment. You do it through your home. That's why the New York Times carried a huge story about how retail sales for gardening and anything related to the home are booming. That's why the

new celebrities are the plumber and the builder. *Mariah Stewart, guru of the decor age, interviewed in Elle Decoration.*

Into exile

THAT EVENING the poet Anna Akhmatova had arrived from Leningrad to visit Osip Mandelstam. There was nothing in the flat for the guest to eat so the poet went next door and returned with an egg. They were too busy talking, though, to eat it at once. Another person also dropped by and firmly installed himself.

The translator David Brodsky had been specially sent on ahead, believes Nadezhda Mandelstam, to make sure the poet had no chance to destroy any manuscripts before the search began... The search went on for hours. Each book was examined, including the spines, and their bindings were cut open. The OGPU men worked their way through every drawer and examined each crack and crevice. While this was going on, var-

ious other things happened. One of the Chekists lectured those present on the dangers of smoking and generously offered them all fruit drops instead. Akhmatova suddenly remembered the egg and persuaded Mandelstam to fortify himself before his journey... Nadezhda packed things into a small suitcase (toilettries, clean shirt collars) and Mandelstam selected seven books, including Dante's *Inferno*. The arrest of Soviet poet Osip Mandelstam in 1934 as recounted in *The KGB's Literary Archives* (Harville) and reprinted in the *Poetry Review*. Mandelstam was sentenced to three years in exile for a poem he had written about Stalin. He survived, but was denounced by another writer and deported. He died in 1938.

Dream on

TOM CRUISE: Youthful Tom in its ideal form, Tom Cruise represents both the desire for risk (indicated here as a "pleasure cruise" on a ship) and the wish for

hometown simplicity. This paradox governs Cruise's public image as an "over-achiever", where the promise of stability meets the threat of danger posed by his hobbies, skydiving and car-racing.

HILLARY Rodham Clinton: Any dream of "the First Lady" is a likely reference to Eve, the source of life, women's link to knowledge



Elle Decoration... for gurus

and power, and the better half of the First Couple. Here we have literally "the American Dream" of the white house and the good weather, who is able to juggle family and career.

RALPH Fiennes: Fiennes, star of *Hamlet*, *Schindler's List*, *Quiz Show* and *Strange Days*, represents the interrogator. A dream of the interrogator invokes the fear that one has no answers (*Hamlet*), or the wrong ones (*Quiz Show*). The dreamer may be a know-it-all who suspects she is about to be revealed as an imposter.

KEANU Reeves: A symbol of outer beauty and inner emptiness, Keanu Reeves represents the mortal conflict between earthly gratification (the speed drive) and spiritual enlightenment (the way of the Little Buddha). His abstract counterpart in the symbolic realm is the empty circle. Note that the dreamer compliments Reeves on his acting ability, an absurdity that lays bare her own desire for stardom.

ORSON Welles: This dreamer struggles between the desire to please others (here represented by tragic beauty Rita Hayworth) and the idiosyncratic creative force of her own inner wunderkind (Orson Welles, or "wells" — inner resources). The divorce of the real-life Welles and Hayworth may play a role in this dream's symbolism as a "divorced" or split self, which is undertaking a journey (symbolised by the boats) toward unification.

From Nancy Graham's *Celebrity Dream Gallery, A Practical Guide to Some Symbols and Their Meanings* based on the *Actual Celebrity Dreams of a Volunteer Subject*, published by the electronic *zine* Word, on the Internet at <http://www.word.com>.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171 713 4868; *Jackdaw, The Guardian*, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

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Thursday January 18 1996

Lloyds answers critics with new-look plan, this page

Watchdogs of the power industry have failed, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Finance Guardian

Government twists in debt trap

Larry Elliott and Richard Thomas

STAGNANT wages and the drift to part-time work are playing havoc with the public finances and threatening to push government borrowing above £30 billion this year, according to official figures released yesterday.

Despite the 28th successive monthly drop in seasonally adjusted unemployment which took the jobless total to a four-and-a-half-year low, the shrinking dole queues have yet to translate into the expected pick up in tax revenues.

The public sector borrowing requirement — the gap between the state's income and its spending — was £1 billion in December and stood at £2.9 billion for the first nine months of the 1995-96 financial year, virtually unchanged on the £2.8 billion in the same period of last year.

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke predicted in last November's Budget that the total for the

full year would be £29 billion, a £7 billion improvement on the £36 billion racked up in 1994-95.

But David Coleman, economist at Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said it was unrealistic to expect the public finances to be £7 billion better in the final three months of this financial year than they were a year ago.

The Treasury believes that stronger corporation tax receipts, privatisation pro-

ceeds and lower interest payments will help to bring the PSBR back on track.

Mr Coleman said: "The numbers simply don't add up. The Treasury has badly misjudged the outlook for disposable income which has been hit by structural changes in the labour market and the lack of confidence restricting wage demand."

According to the Central Statistical Office, the number of people out of work and

claiming benefit dropped by 7,500 in December to 2,238,500, leaving the unemployment rate unchanged at 8.0 per cent.

However, the separate Labour Force Survey — which collects unemployment data on an internationally agreed basis — found that all the jobs created in recent months were part-time.

The LFS showed that in the three months to November, overall employment rose by 38,000 — but within that total

the number of full-time jobs fell by 9,000 while part-time posts were up by 50,000.

Unemployment on the LFS measure fell by 15,000 in the three months to November, compared to a 47,000 drop in the claimant count. Joblessness is now 228,000 higher on the internationally-accepted yardstick than on the benefit measure.

Although some City economists remain optimistic about the chances of the Gov-

ernment getting close to its PSBR target, they still believe interest rates will be cut over the next couple of months to keep the economy moving.

Mr Clarke met the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, yesterday afternoon, but City analysts said an immediate reduction in the cost of borrowing was unlikely unless today's data on retail sales and prices pointed to further weakness in the economy.

The labour market data also showed that earnings rose by 3.25 per cent in the year to November, the fifth successive month that wage growth remained flat.

Notebook

Parenting help for infant technology



Edited by Alex Brummer

DESPITE some well publicised court cases, the relationship between banks and small and medium sized enterprises in the UK appears to be improving. As interest rates have fallen, the margin over base rates charged by the banks — although too high at 3 to 4 per cent — has, at least, remained constant.

Moreover, there has been a move from unstable overdraft lending to term lending, and banks are showing more sophistication in dealing with small businesses, according to the latest report from the Bank of England on small firms finance.

That is not to say all is now well. The volume of new small business lending slipped last year, even though enterprise is meant to be at the vanguard of British growth. It is difficult to obtain a firm fix on what the situation would be were the economy in recession, rather than on an incline.

As the Bank's deputy-governor, Howard Davies, pointed out in Manchester last night, there are still critical shortcomings in small firm finance in the UK particularly in the area of equity capital.

This is partly the result of UK entrepreneurs unwilling to give up equity in the businesses they have created. But, more seriously, it is the result of a pathetic venture capital industry and a shortage of business angels willing to back enterprise. This has put Britain at a serious disadvantage in areas of new technology where banks are cautious and venture funds too sceptical to back processes they don't understand.

Mr Davies advocates the development in the UK of a culture of corporate parenting where larger, research-orientated companies put resources into promising smaller enterprises operating in adjacent areas.

As companies such as Glaxo Wellcome — which have backed promising enterprises — have found, supporting innovative companies can bring rich rewards for the investor, the infant technology and the nation.

France and perhaps even the US than there was a month ago. The 10 basis point cut in German mark rates reflects this to some extent.

And despite the Governor running up the flag over wage costs, the latest earnings figures suggest that labour cost pressures remain subdued — Vauxhall notwithstanding.

Nevertheless, it is not clear that the UK economy — unlike its continental neighbours — has fizzled. Retail data suggests that anecdotal sales are buoyant, and the economy appears to be a decent consumer jolt from the Tessa maturities, building society payouts, electricity rebates and tax cuts to come.

By the time the Governor and the Chancellor meet next month the picture could be less cloudy, particularly if this weekend's G7 provokes another burst of easier money.

Stretching EMU

THERE is a degree of irony about Italy's foreign minister Susanna Agnelli pledging to keep the European Union on a timetable for monetary union when her country will not be able to meet. But at least the problems of doing so are becoming clearer.

Take yesterday. On the one hand, Bundesbank council member Hans Jürgen Krupp was warning that Germany's efforts to achieve the monetary union criteria laid down in the Maastricht treaty would hit the country's economic development, but allowing the timetable to slip would see others backslide on monetary rectitude.

On the other hand, Eddie George has been told an Austrian magazine that forcing EMU through without sufficient economic convergence risks dividing, rather than uniting, Europe.

The snag for the EMU hares is the economic slowdown is reducing the chances of a credible group — effectively Germany, France and the DM satellites — being ready for EMU by the end of 1997. They may have to pin their hopes on some "flexible" interpretations of the treaty's terms and a recovery in economic growth.

The French and German governments are working on both aspects. Economic growth will be a vote winner, but talk of flexibility is not what they like to hear in Frankfurt.

Pharmacy chase

LOYDS Chemists has looked like a big target for some time. City dissatisfaction with its corporate governance, accountancy practices, and its capacity to spring unpleasant surprises — like the restructuring of its Supersave drugs chain — have left it fairly friendless.

Moreover, the price cutting started by Asda in food supplements was unlikely to assist. Unicepharm may be the favourite to make founder Alan Lloyd a very rich man, but other high street names could push up the asking price.

Chemist's shares soar on £500m sale talks

Ian King

LOYDS Chemists, Britain's second biggest pharmaceuticals chain, is expected to be sold next week to rival drug group Unichem for just under £500 million.

Unichem, which owns the Moss Chemists chain but which is better known as a pharmaceuticals wholesaler, said it did not comment on market rumours.

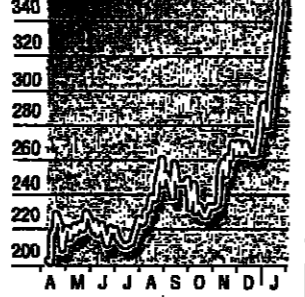
But sources close to Unichem said an agreed bid of around £4 a share, valuing Holland & Barratt health stores chain — at just under £500 million — was expected to be thrashed out by the weekend.

Rumours of a takeover bid for Lloyds, whose shares raked up 79p to 368p after the talks were confirmed, have been circulating in the City for several months.

But several other potential bidders, including Boots, Asda

and Tesco, all but ruled themselves out of the running. Last night, a leading City analyst said it would "make sense" if Unichem was the bidder, as the two companies were very complementary businesses.

He went on: "Unichem is big on the distribution side but weaker on the retail side, while Lloyds is the opposite, so it would be a good match."



Share price, (p)

A price tag of £4 a share would value chairman and founder Allen Lloyd's 7.5 per cent stake in the Warwickshire-based company at around £36 million.

An intensely private man, whose main passion outside work is his collection of Jaguar cars, Mr Lloyd set up the group in 1973 from a single shop.

However, he has had a stormy relationship with the City since Lloyds went public a decade ago, prompted largely by scepticism at Lloyds' accounting policy. The row came to the boil last March, when Lloyds shares crashed, following the group's decision to shut its loss-making Supersave chain.

Mr Lloyd's private fortune, including his shares in Lloyds Chemists, is said to be worth well over £40 million, and last year he collected a total salary, benefits and bonus package worth £548,000.

After college, he joined Boots but left to set up on his own after being told he was not management material.

Lloyd's answers critics

Pauline Springett

LOYDS of London yesterday published the first regulatory plan in its 300-year history and insisted it had tackled all the criticisms of its system made by a Commons Select Committee last year.

The committee had recommended that Lloyd's scrap its current system of internal rule enforcement and switch to external regulation. It condemned Lloyd's existing system as "fundamentally and irretrievably tarnished" and also severely criticised Sir Alan Harcastle, the chair-

man of Lloyd's regulatory board. Yesterday, Sir Alan said he was confident that the new plan addressed all the committee's concerns in full.

Sir Alan said the main aim of the plan was to "get regulation on the front foot. A great deal of time has been spent fighting, plugging holes and dashing from one place to another." The new-look regulatory system would take preventive, remedial action rather than let problems build up.

The plan is likely to be seen as the first stage in preparing Lloyd's for external regulation, something Labour has already committed itself to.

The main plank is to register all the insurance market's key senior staff and then to monitor and discipline them closely. Transgressors will be dealt with by warnings, fines and even expulsion from the market. Such measures are possible already but Sir Alan said the revamped system would be directed more sharply at individuals rather than at the firms for whom they work.

The new regime aims to ensure that policyholders are treated fairly and that all valid claims are met. Lloyd's also hopes its enforcement of strict market standards will convince Names that they too are being dealt with fairly.

Tesco winter sales buoyant but Body Shop issues profit warning

Roger Cowe

TESCO emphasised its pole position among UK supermarkets with strong yesterday of buoyant sales this winter, including what chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin described as "the best Christmas ever".

But there was a mixed picture from other retailers, ranging from a profit warning at Body Shop to booming sales at Kingfisher's Comet electrical chain.

Tesco's sales in December were 10 per cent higher than in the previous year, excluding additional sales from new stores. That boosted sales for the autumn with sales for the 20 weeks to Christmas 8.5 per cent above autumn 1994 — almost half of which was due to higher prices.

Sir Ian said fresh produce and delicatessen lines had gone particularly well, with

wine and Christmas gift items selling strongly. He pointed out that the record sales coincided with the first Christmas that Tesco had not advertised on television. Instead the company relied on direct marketing, with its Clubcard scheme. Customers cashed in Clubcard vouchers worth over £28 million at Christmas.

At the other end of the spectrum, Budgets reported a 4.5 per cent increase in sales in the six months to mid-November, which continued over Christmas.

Kingfisher emphasised the patchy sales with an increase of more than a fifth at Comet but sales at do-it-yourself chain, B&Q, were down by 3 per cent on a comparable basis. The Woolworths chain bounced back from last year's dismal Christmas, which prompted a boardroom clear-out, with sales more than 7 per cent higher.

Maxwell jury deliberations head for the record books

Dean Atkinson

THE Maxwell trial was heading into the record books last night after a second day's deliberations were suspended because of a juror's illness. The seven women and five men have now spent 10 nights in a hotel.

This exceeds the previous record, believed by the Lord Chancellor's Department to be the longest of any trial, as the jury had the day off, the trial seems certain to set a new peak in terms of time taken to reach verdicts.

The judge, Lord Justice Phillips, told the 11 fit jurors yesterday on Day 129 of the trial that the sick juror, whose illness led to the suspension of deliberations on Tuesday, was still unfit for duty.

There was a chance she may have recovered by today said the judge. If not, he would be "very reluctant to discharge [someone who has been] one of your number right up to this stage". Lord Justice Phillips has the power to discharge a juror in such circumstances and to

Gung-ho culture pays out highest average salary in corporate Britain

Patrick Donovan, Chris Barrie and Paul Murphy

BITAIN'S highest paid director, Charles "Copperfingers" Vincent — who was yesterday revealed by the Guardian as earning at least £16 million a year — runs the world's most bizarre management training programme.

While many companies send staff on outward bound courses or weekend brain-storming sessions, Mr Vincent's Winchester Commodities Group reckons that the Monte Carlo gaming tables are a better way of developing an esprit de corps.

According to one former employee, four of Winchester's top traders were recently given £25,000 each and told not to return until they had turned their stake into at least £500,000.

That gung-ho culture runs right through the extraordinarily profitable futures and commodity dealing operation which must be paying the highest average salary in corporate Britain.

School-dinner ladies lose right-to-pension test case

Margaret Hughes

HUNDREDS of thousands of former public sector workers whose jobs have been or will be privatised through the Government's Compulsory Competitive Tender (CCT) scheme, yesterday lost their automatic right to a comparable pension.

A High Court ruling said they are not covered by European employment protection laws. The decision also covers former employees of private companies who have sold off part of their businesses to other companies.

In a test case brought by 11 Lancashire school-dinner ladies, Mr Justice Robert Walker held that Lancashire County Council did not breach European law in failing to ensure that their right to belong to an occupational pension scheme carried over into their new employment with BET Catering Services.

The women, who when they worked for the council were entitled to join the national-wide Local Government Pension Scheme, were not eligible to join BET's own scheme

Bank's tilt

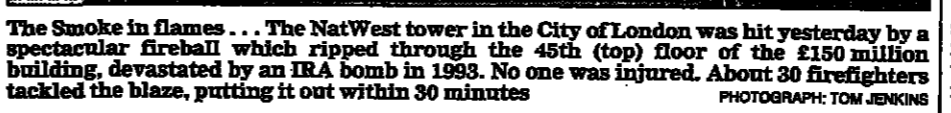
NATURALLY, lower interest rates would help not just small enterprises but the economy as a whole. But following the latest monthly meeting between the Governor, Eddie George, and Chancellor Kenneth Clarke, we may have to wait a bit for that.

However, the Bank's analysis may be shifting towards a more pessimistic view. There appears to be more concern about economic slowdown in Germany,

Just 48 staff are employed at its luxuriously appointed headquarters in Winchester, complete with high-backed leather chairs on the dealing floor.

But the bill for salaries and fee income amounts to as much as £55 million.

Nearly £30 million of this was paid out as fees to Mr Vincent and Ashley Levett, a former director and business partner who resigned last year.



The Smoke in flames... The NatWest tower in the City of London was hit yesterday by a spectacular fireball which ripped through the 45th (top) floor of the £160 million building, devastated by an IRA bomb in 1993. No one was injured. About 30 firefighters tackled the blaze, putting it out within 30 minutes. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.00	France 7.42	Italy 2.385	Singapore 2.13
Austria 15.30	Germany 2.1875	Malta 0.5425	South Africa 5.42
Belgium 44.75	Greece 385.00	Netherlands 2.4500	Spain 163.00
Canada 21.04	Hong Kong 11.08	New Zealand 2.27	Sweden 10.10
Cyprus 0.70	India 55.22	Norway 8.60	Switzerland 1.7500
Denmark 8.45	Portugal 225.50	Turkey 88.813	USA 1.5275
Finland 8.74	Israel 4.90	Saudi Arabia 5.69	

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian Rupee and Israeli Shekel).

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian Rupee and Israeli Shekel).

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian Rupee and Israeli Shekel).

Watchdogs with marginal utility

The regulators of the electricity, water, gas and telecoms utilities were meant to ensure that consumers got a fair share of the benefits of privatisation. Yet the watchdogs are widely seen to have failed. Today GREGORY PALAST, a leading US expert on regulation, challenges the electricity watchdog and architect of UK regulation, Professor Stephen Littlechild, to justify a system which, he argues, is too weak and too secretive to take on the corporate raiders now dominating the power industry

Dear Professor,

THE typical British homeowner pays 9p for a kilowatt-hour of electricity, double the sum paid in the US. Britain has chosen to emulate America's system of electricity for profit, but risks basic consumer protections the US developed to keep these service monopolies in check. I write from the trenches, 20 years on regulation's front line as special investigator for American government. I admit that America's regulatory armies often fail to curb utility waste, incompetence, and profiteering. Yet, although the UK suffers even higher prices, you are reported as saying your method of regulation has "achieved a great deal for consumers".

If you believe the British pay a bargain price for electricity, read no further. If not, then I can share the lessons of my one hundred price and racketeering investigations, many aimed at the US companies seizing benchmarks in the British energy market. Given that your utilities collect double the US price, where does all that money go? Of the £1.4 billion National Grid charges annually for moving power, more than a third represents operating profits. Shareholders consistently garner returns of 26 per cent, triple the profit permitted in the US.

Power generation accounts for three-quarters of the UK's electricity bill. PowerGen and National Power own 60 per cent of the nation's capacity (versus no more than 2 per cent of the US market controlled by any one company). Under the system followed by Offer — the Office of Electricity Regulation — consumers must pay every power seller the highest bid accepted. PowerGen and NP "win" your daily bid to supply

electricity, day after day. Notwithstanding this plain evidence of monopoly abuse, Offer insists that there is no need to limit profits. Instead, your government exhorts the public to have faith that the invisible hand of the marketplace will shield them from pillaging monopoly. But after five years of a privately controlled system, the score stands at Monopoly, 8; Invisible Hand, 0.

The complete failure of competition among generators has not deterred Offer from announcing plans to unleash the regional electricity companies in 1998 to compete for domestic power distribution services. The truth is, no one can tell me how a household can get around the monopoly stranglehold represented by the single wire between the house and the street.

Despite all the hoopla about market forces, the public still must turn to you, the regulator. US government agencies and customers field a battalion of nearly 50,000 experts and support staff to carefully comb over the cost records of America's utilities. Compare this to your little band of 500 — Offer, Ofel and Ofgas combined — none with long-time regulatory experience.

Offer doesn't stand a chance, especially against the accounting magicians that the new owners have brought across the water. Last year Sweb's new American owner paid \$60 million (£39 million) to settle tax claims on a scheme which took a score of US government experts 10 years to unravel.

In 1990, Sweb's new finance officer successfully fended off US criminal charges of fraudulent accounting; complexity was the company's key defence. In 20 years of investigations, I've identified easily £10 billion in account-book creativity used to inflate "costs" to justify high prices. We have 50,000 utility police in the US because we need them.



Power without responsibility... Britain's secretive regulatory system does nothing to stop electricity being sold at twice the price of that in the strictly-policed US PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL BARKER

Let me not bash US companies alone. A British utility executive bluntly told me: "We don't give Littlechild all the information he asks for. It's a little game we play." Matters will only get worse for you by the end of the current corporate mating season, with water companies buying regional electrics and, awaiting Monopolies and Mergers Commission blessing, the generating monopolies swallowing their distributors.

Your press releases assure the nation that you can keep utility divisions apart by "ring-fencing," yet Offer has no enforcement mechanism for this enormous job. The US has buildings filled with accountants whose work is to unravel the incestuous dealings between subsidiaries of large utilities.

"We regulate price not profit, so we don't need all those people," one of Offer's true believers told me. Despite protests to the contrary, Offer does regulate profit. Your price formula, "RPI-X," is exactly the same formula as used in the US. The mysterious "X" factor gauges cost and "return to shareholders," jargon for a profit target. Why then, should virtually identical profit-target formulas double prices in Britain double those in the US?

How did Offer find itself lost on this high-profit, high-price path? The answer lies in Britain's unjustifiably secretive regulatory process.

Open Offer's doors to the public and rates will fall. No reputable finance expert would stand up in public hearings and call the industry's 23 per cent average profit merely "adequate" when the proper term is "exorbitant".

IN PRACTICE, the industry equates efficiency with eliminating jobs. Under Offer's RPI-X formula, consumers pay prices based on a 1990 workforce of 143,000. How did you determine that not one of the 30,000 terminated workers is needed for safety or service?

Why not open the records for public review — or is safety another state secret? In the US, citizens can and do challenge utility service-force reductions. By letting shareholders pocket the wages of terminated workers and the value of repairs delayed, Offer makes cuts in safety spending irresistibly profitable.

Offer's reward for slashing repairs and staffing makes the Government's rush to privatise nuclear plants particularly chilling.

In the film *The Magic Christian*, businessmen in suits and bowler hats dived into a large vat of bovine urine to retrieve dollar bills. The parallel to Britain's frenzied selling of its utilities to Yanuk is not exact; in the film, the businessmen knew what they were diving into.

What do you know of the American firms devouring your electric system? Although the press reported allegations of their incompetence, even criminality, Offer has never sought to investigate nor institute hearings.

Why this fear of public debate? Why limit the investigation of would-be foreign owners to weighing wallets? The very week Central & South West bought Seaboard, the US Justice Department initiated an investigation of the company's involvement in an alleged conspiracy to monopolise the Texas power market. As the UK's design-

nated protector, don't you have a few questions for CSW?

Recently, a French court jailed Grenoble's former mayor for taking a £2.6 million bribe from Lyonnaisse des Eaux, now buying into Britain. In 1989, Sweb's US parent pleaded guilty to illegally funding political campaigns. Does your government comprehend what happens to the political system when money meets monopoly?

Free-market theory tells us that competition, not government protection, protects the public best. I am not a cheerleader for state bureaucracy. I earned my credentials at the feet of Nobel laureate Milton Friedman, who grew visibly ill at the mere mention of the word "government". But years of digging through cooked account books, bogus cost claims and the occasional burnt building has led me to conclude that regulation is a war between the monopoly and the monopolised. And war is hell, not theory.

Gregory Palast

Electricity	Gas	Water
Regulator: Professor Stephen Littlechild and staff at Offer Industry: 12 regional electricity companies and 2 generators in England and Wales, 2 generators and distributors in Scotland, National Grid, nuclear Customers: 23 million	Regulator: Clare Scottiswoods and staff at Ofgas Industry: British Gas and new suppliers lining up to compete for domestic customers from 1998. Customers: 18 million	Regulator: Ian Byatt and staff at Ofwat Industry: 10 water and sewerage companies, and about 20 smaller water-only companies in England and Wales. Customers: 57 million

TOMORROW: "The innovations in Britain have proved a model for the rest of the world."
STEPHEN LITTLECHILD defends the regulatory system

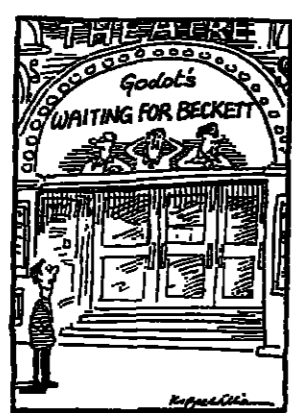
The Underside

Dan Atkinson

WORD reaches us that mention of the Bank of England's vertically challenged head of "human resources", Roy Lecky-Thompson, triggers a Herbert Lom-style twitch among senior staff at the Old Lady. Mr Lecky-Thompson was wooed from the private sector with a five-year contract and a gargantuan salary, but his management-speak and flow diagrams are now viewed, rather like the expert's experiment as something of an unfortunate mistake. As one official, speaking through gritted teeth, put it: "Only three years and eleven months to go".

TOP management at Asda demands that office telephones be answered quickly, so imagine the anger of an executive (anonymous but very, very high up) when he dialled an internal number which rang dozens of times before a worker reluctantly picked it up, and then with a surly "yeah?" The boss exploded: "Do you know who I am, young man?" To which the young man replied "No. Why, do you know who I am?" Boss: "Well, no". Young man: "Thank God for that". And rang off. This lad could go far.

MARGARET Beckett has inevitably slid a notch or two down the greasy pole since the heady days of the Labour Party's leadership election. But the opposition trade and industry spokesman has a strange way of battling back into the limelight. On January 10, she said poor trade figures "underlined the need for a Labour government com-



mitted to investment, employment and a sustained recovery". The next day, stagnant factory production data "underlined the need for a Labour government committed to investment, employment and... Hello, hello? Are you still there?"

MARKS & Spencer, we hear, wasted no time in moving on to the Next Big Thing after Christmas. It celebrated Twelfth Night by displaying non-cross buns for sale.

MEANWHILE, Body Shop is gearing itself up for February 14. Living up to its name, Body Shop is promoting a recipe of oils aimed at Valentine's Day LOVERS (the company's capitals) in need of "a gentle, slow and sensuous massage". Wash your hands to "cleanse off negative energies" (tee hee), then begin, perhaps using Ylang Ylang oil, which has "a reputation for helping frigidity and impotence". Not a massage expert? Find out more in *The Body Shop Book*, a snip at £16.99. You'll LOVE it.

communicé proclaiming London and the country at large could be in line for a "mini-boom" following the payment of expected bumper new-year bonuses to City high-flyers. "Many bonuses of six figures and more will find their way into the property market this spring, our prediction is that by March it will be the bankers and brokers who will be our priority applicants." Perhaps. But things may have changed quite dramatically. One broker of our acquaintance has recently splashed out on a second abode — a beach hut on the North Kent coast. This may not be quite what £250k has in it, but cost £700 to build and the site £25. But I did have to splash out on a couple of hurricane lamps, says our greed-crazed young achiever.

THOSE medical experts hired by the drinks industry-sponsored Portman Group — at present grappling with the need to convince the world that alcoholic fizzy pop is not really aimed at underage drinkers — can be thanked in the aftermath of booze-saturated Yuletide for uncovering some relief-inducing statistics about drinking. Those of us who thought the sauce would eventually pickle the little grey cells are comforted in the latest issue of *The Review of Alcohol Research* by the indication that moderate drinking over the long term can actually improve cognitive functioning. But the Portman Group's magazine does admit a downside: "Consuming an alcoholic drink while eating a meal containing a large quantity of fat is a highly effective way of taking in more energy than one needs and thus becoming fat oneself." All the medical research in the world, it seems, can't wish away the beer gut.

News in brief

Builder sacks chief and seeks inquiry

SHARES in Wainhomes, the Chester-based housebuilder, collapsed yesterday after the company announced that it had sacked its chief executive, Ron Smith, and that it had asked the police to investigate "valuation irregularities" at its northern division. The company insisted that the two events were not related. It revealed, however, that it faced one-off costs of around £2 million as a result of the irregularities and also warned that profits for the year were likely to be "materially below the market's current expectations". Wainhomes' shares fell 41p to 68p on the news, wiping around £25 million off the company's market value. — *Ian King*

Aid for jobsless mandarins

A SCHEME to help find work for an unprecedented number of top civil servants losing their jobs through government cuts was launched yesterday. Redundancies among senior officials, who earn up to £70,000, have reached "crisis" levels and have shattered their careers, according to the First Division Association (FDA) which represents the officials. The FDA has joined forces with a management consultancy to provide a "Prospects Register" for around 1,000 top officials including policy advisers, lawyers, economists, statisticians, and accountants who, by April, will have lost their job through cuts in Whitehall. FDA general secretary Elizabeth Symons said: "Suddenly a large number of these people are having to leave their jobs from their mid-forties". — *Richard Norton-Taylor*

Pru reports sales fall

PRUDENTIAL, the UK's largest life insurer, yesterday reported a 3 per cent fall in worldwide sales for annual premium life and pension products to £500 million, with single premium sales down by 11 per cent to £4.5 billion. UK annual premiums decreased 8 per cent to £245 million. UK single premiums also dropped by 8 per cent, to £2.03 billion. General Accident's life operation, which has acquired that of Provident Mutual, reported a 26 per cent fall in new life annual premiums to £33.6 million. New pensions single premiums rose by 33 per cent to £211.6 million, while new life single premiums climbed 63 per cent to £883.1 million. — *Pauline Springett*

Bank helps small firms

BRITAIN was falling to get the most out of the entrepreneurship in smaller firms, Howard Davies, deputy governor of the Bank of England said last night. Mr Davies, presenting the Bank's third annual report on the financing of small firms, said relationships between smaller companies and their banks had improved. However, the Bank planned a number of initiatives including training in financial and management skills, venture and other finance and monitoring the effectiveness of the Government's Business Link network. — *Celia Weston*

This month's Clearance Offer.

Here's your chance to pick up a new phone for just 99p in our super stock clearance spectacular. We have limited supplies of new Mitsubishi MT-9 phones with full manufacturer's one year warranty to clear for only 99p each. No catches. No hidden extras. And we'll even include FREE connection to the Vodafone LowCall Tariff plus a FREE in-car adaptor worth £19.99. Simply phone us with your credit card details and we'll deliver your phone within 4 working days. But hurry. At these prices it has to be first come first served.

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Peak Rate Calls UK Wide	50p per min (42.5p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	20p per min (17p + VAT)

LowCall peak times are 8.00-19.00 Mon to Fri. Mandatory removed bills will be charged at £1.77 inc. VAT per month. Line rental (included monthly in advance) and airtime charges will be debited to your nominated credit card or Delta card. Calls charged in 30 "second units" after the first minute.

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Advertisement for mobile phones, featuring a large image of a mobile phone and text: "999", "FREE", "000 000 888".

Tennis Doubting Henman slides to defeat

David Irvine in Melbourne

TIM HENMAN still has the conviction that the Australian Open was a lost cause. Yesterday the 21-year-old British No. 2 failed dismally in his attempt to follow a convincing victory over the Czech Petr Korda here at the Australian Open with another at Jonas Bjorkman's expense.

Long before the 87-minute match ended with the score 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 to the Swede, it was painfully evident that Henman had no belief in his ability to win. "Everything I tried to do, he had an answer for. I know now I have to be more consistent."

He could do a lot worse than study a case history that could not be more up to date. While Henman has a lot of disaster, was foundering his way out, Patrick McEnroe was ignoring the loss of 11 of the first 12 games of his match with the 14th seed Andrei Medvedev to battle back and win 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

It was the fourth time in his career — and the second in Melbourne — that the American, whose elder brother John was thrown out of the tournament in 1990, had overturned a two-set deficit.

Once on the run Medvedev, who now has a 10-1 record, teamed with Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic — as his

coach, was at a loss to know what to do. This was an opponent who normally grinds out the points, and who is not flustered by McEnroe's new-found aggression. Only towards the end did he make a stand, denying McEnroe seven match points before the axe fell.

In Henman's case an eventual first game, in which he was foot-faulted twice, double-faulted twice and finally broken after nine minutes, set an ominous pattern. By the close he had held his serve only four times in 12 games.

Unable to dictate at the net as he had against Korda, he let his inexperience be all too apparent. Bjorkman's volleying in particular was on a far higher plane, and even in the longer rallies the Swede usually held the last word.

However, even Bjorkman's advance offense meant comfort to the painted array of Swedish supporters who had descended on Flinders Park for what they hoped would be an early birthday celebration but instead became Stefan Edberg's wake.

Edberg, the two-times Australian Open champion who will be 30 tomorrow, was beaten on his final appearance not only by a qualifier but by a man even older than himself.

Jean-Philippe Fleurian, having shown himself at winning 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3,

was almost apologetic afterwards. "When I had the second match point [with a glorious forehand winner] I felt like clapping," said Fleurian. "It was so beautiful."

The French qualifier, four months Edberg's senior, added: "Winning meant a lot to me because we are of the same generation. Maybe the young guys don't respect him as much as I do, and that's bad. They should learn the history of the game."

Fleurian, who had saved a match point against Tom Kemper in the last round of qualifying, was one of three qualifiers to reach the last 32 — a feat of accomplishment that Bryan being the others. Karol Rucera of Slovakia, who just made the main draw, also survived; at the expense, moreover, of the No. 9 seed Wayne Ferreira.

Although handicapped to some extent by a fractured finger, Ferreira said it was a hamstring pull near the end of the first set which accounted for his 6-3, 6-3, 6-0 defeat. A run of eight straight games to Kucera at the end suggested a feat of accomplishment on the South African's part.

It was an apt comment on an uneventful women's programme that the No. 1 seed Monica Seles played probably the worst match since her comeback began but was still a challenger over Katarina Studenkova.



Friends again... Tarango, left, and Courier shake hands at the end. PHOTOGRAPH: RICK STEVENS

More tantrums from Tarango in all-American dispute

JEFF TARANGO, banned from this summer's Wimbledon after storming off court last year and accusing the umpire of bias, challenged officials again at the Australian

Open, writes David Irvine. He shouted at the umpire, asking why action was not being taken against Jim Courier, his fellow-American, for flinging his racket and swearing.

"I was just asking him how many times someone has to do that before they get warned," Tarango explained later. Neither player was cautioned. Courier won 7-5, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Taunton with form guide

1.50 Taunton Cavalier	2.50 Mister Monna (ch)
1.50 Valiant Hawk	2.50 Beechloch
2.50 Sunday Bay	2.50 Lela Kariba
	4.50 Alex White

FORM GUIDE - ALL CLEAR Held up and pulled apart, every chance when left last in race won by River View (Hawthorn) 2m. 13 runners.

FORM GUIDE - ALL CLEAR Held up and pulled apart, every chance when left last in race won by River View (Hawthorn) 2m. 13 runners.

1.50 PICKERING HILL HURDLE 5m 11.20.00	2.50	3.50	4.50
1.50 VALMONT TROPHY 4m 11.20.00	2.50	3.50	4.50
1.50 VALMONT TROPHY 4m 11.20.00	2.50	3.50	4.50

Lingfield (all-weather flat)

1.00 Jack Vestra	2.50 Ervant
1.50 Mito	2.50 Halford
2.50 Zorro Flyer	2.50 WMD Strawberry
	4.00 Rebellious

FORM GUIDE - ALL CLEAR Held up and pulled apart, every chance when left last in race won by River View (Hawthorn) 2m. 13 runners.

Results

WINDSOR	1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50
1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50	
1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50	

Ludlow runners and riders

1.50 Mister Tyle	2.50 Early Drinker
1.50 DALLINGHAM (nap)	2.50 Apollonia Flower
1.50 Pridewind Plover	2.50 Rayloo
2.10 Turning Tyle	4.10 Potts's Dale

1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50
1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50
1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50

Lingfield (all-weather flat)

1.00 Jack Vestra	2.50 Ervant
1.50 Mito	2.50 Halford
2.50 Zorro Flyer	2.50 WMD Strawberry
	4.00 Rebellious

Results

WINDSOR	1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50
1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50	
1.50	2.50	3.50	4.50	

Ludlow runners and riders

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Racing Maguire takes Sunday mount on Montelado

ADRIAN MAGUIRE, unable to secure the amount on Danoli at Leopardstown on Sunday, has emerged as the three-choice rider for another top Irish hurdler returning from injury.

Maguire yesterday agreed to ride Montelado in the AIG (Eloppe) Irish Champion Hurdle and again at Cheltenham.

Pat Flynn, trainer of Montelado, turned to Maguire after Richard Dunwoody and Charlie Swan, who have both ridden the horse before, were claimed for Balahar and Hotel Minella respectively.

Maguire's agent Dave Roberts said: "Adrian was keen to ride Montelado and he has an agreement with Mr Flynn to partner the horse on Sunday and again at Cheltenham."

Montelado has not run over hurdles since last year's Champion Hurdle, in which he finished ninth on his only start of the season.

Wins on the Flat in the autumn signalled a return to form, but attempts to resurrect his jumping career this campaign have so far been frustrated by minor setbacks.

Tony McCoy, who was also passed over for the ride on Danoli, continued his rapid ascent to the top weights on his first century of winning in his first century of riding.

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Advertisement for RACELINE, featuring a large image of a horse and text: "RACELINE", "FULL RESULTS SERVICE", "0891-168-168", "TAUNTON 101 201 301", "LUDLOW 102 202 302", "LINGFIELD 103 203 303", "TRAMORE 120 220 320".

1996/1/18

Cricket

England hapless and hopeless to the end

Mike Selvey in Durban

FIVE matches gone and still two to go, but for England this one-day series has long since produced the effect of sustained mallet blows to the head.

It was a defeat achieved at a price, moreover, for Alec Stewart, fingers already as brittle as the wicket, retired from the field needing stitches, having split the webbing of his left hand in missing a bullet catch at mid-wicket from Jacques Kallis.

"Kalabar" Kallis ("there's not much there", supposedly), having already retired from the first half-century of his infant international career, went on to make a cultured 67 from

107 balls before hauling Phil DeFreitas high to mid-wicket where Graeme Hick made an awkward catch appear a sneeze.

It was a welcome breakthrough, with the young thunderbat driving succulently at times. The damage had already been done, however, for he and the South Africa captain Hansie Cronje had resurrected the innings from a disastrous start.

Chasing 185 to win — England having been bowled out with a ball to spare — the air added 118 in 33 overs for the third wicket after Dominic Cork, making the new ball wobble like a gelatine belly-dancer, had retained the

But although they were behind the asking rate for much of the innings, South Africa had wickets in hand and Cronje was not about to let go. First with Brian McMillan, until he likewise was taken at deep mid-wicket, and then with Rhodes (12 not out), Cronje steered his side to within two runs of the post before chopping on to his stumps having made 78 in 133 balls. Shaun Pollock finished the job with 10 balls to spare.

Cronje had been an accomplished innings, containing four fours and a six clumped back over DeFreitas's astonished head when victory was imminent. But it was scarcely chanceless.

Three times in five overs — before he had made 30 — he might have gone. First Cork fingertipped a fierce off-drive, then Mike Atherton, backed-

ailing furiously at long-off, failed to cling on to a snowy steeper, and finally DeFreitas dived for a simple chance at backward point.

For the third time in his four matches, England were indebted to Graham Thorpe for their score: in Cape Town his 62 had lent a poor effort a measure of respectability; at Bloemfontein his beautifully



Bowled over... the wicketkeeper Richardson and Donald celebrate the fast bowler's dismissal of Stewart in Durban

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE HUTCHINGS

Table with 2 columns: Player, Score. Includes names like A. J. Stewart, G. Hick, G. P. Thorpe, M. Atherton, S. Pollock, D. Cork, D. DeFreitas, P. J. Richards, S. G. Coetzee, P. J. M. Smith, P. J. M. van der Merwe, P. J. M. van der Merwe, P. J. M. van der Merwe.

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timed 72 had seen the side home in a chase when they looked like faltering. Only in Sunday's better at Centurion had he failed.

Yesterday Atherton and Stewart gave the side their third decent start of the series, only for the innings to be cancelled by rain.

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Craig White (18, with whom he added 54 for the fifth wicket — the highest stand of the innings — before the all-rounder's dreadful hit across the line resulted in Pollock uprooting his off stump, and Jack Russell. The wicket-keeper made 21 before Pollock's kick on to the stumps ran him out as he attempted a quick single at the behest of the striker, DeFreitas.

By this time Thorpe had gone, having made 63 from 74 balls with only four boundaries, scrapping and scavenging for every run. Invention was his downfall as he tried to accelerate. Having flicked Craig Matthews from around off stump to the fine-leg boundary, he got the taste, stepped outside the line once again and lost his leg stump. The last five wickets fell for 20 runs.

Australians to have 24-hour armed guard at World Cup

AUSTRALIA'S players will be protected by armed guards for 24 hours a day during the World Cup on the Indian subcontinent next month. They will also be given extra security at grounds and airports.

Some of them have received threatening letters and they are fearful of retribution after controversies involving Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

stuff has been quite frightening." Australia's recent home Test series against Pakistan was overshadowed by their players' earlier bribery allegations against Saïim Malik, the former captain of the visitors.

Australia's current series against Sri Lanka was disrupted when the tourists were found guilty and then cleared of ball-tampering during last month's first Test. And the Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan was no-balled for throwing by Australian umpires in two subsequent matches.

Singapore will host a triangular tournament between India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in April. Shortly after the three countries have staged the World Cup.

In Hamilton, a bold attempt by New Zealand's captain Lee Gernon to breathe life into the first Test failed when Zimbabwe's batsmen finished 49 runs short of victory with four wickets in hand yesterday.

The match was drawn after Gernon had declared his side's second innings at 222 for five, setting Zimbabwe a winning target of 257 in two sessions.

Both teams had a chance to win the match in the final session. Zimbabwe had gone into tea at 113 for two but were reduced to 177 for six.

Worcestershire have reported a pre-tax profit of £141,107 for 1995 — the 13th successive year that they have enjoyed a surplus. It comfortably beats the 1994 profit of 253,826.

Rugby Union

Richards stays in the picture

Robert Armstrong

DEAN RICHARDS, England's talisman and France's bete noire, will replace the injured Tim Rodber on the bench for Saturday's Five Nations opener at the Parc des Princes.

The 32-year-old No. 3 will provide positional cover for Bath's Ben Clarke, who was passed fit for yesterday's training session at Roehampton despite suffering spasms of the abdominal and pelvic muscles in the past week.

Rodber withdrew before the squad session started, having decided his knee and ankle damage would give him no chance of playing an effective part in the England pack.

Richards, who was called into the squad at Bisham Abbey last weekend, can offer the management extra options should either Steve Ojomoh or Lawrence Dallaglio be injured, because Clarke has the capacity to change to a pack option where he played in the World Cup.

"We need more of our players to accept responsibility, anyone with a number of caps, Leonard, Bayfield, Johnson for instance, could do a lot to bring out the best in the side."

Across the Channel Jean-Claude Sicre, the France coach, promised to emulate the European champions Toulouse with an exhibition of rumbung rugby.

The club's former flanker said: "Toulouse showed you can impose your own game by playing total rugby. It's up to us to follow their example."

Nevertheless the England manager Jack Rowell acknowledged that Clarke's consistent form this season made him an indispensable member of the England team. "Ben has been developing as a pack leader," Rowell said. "He has an uplifting effect on the whole squad."

This afternoon the England party flies to Paris from Heathrow after a training session at Roehampton, which

Many returns on the flying Scott

SCOTT HASTINGS reports his weekend knee injury "no more than a wee bruise" and he will wear his 58th cap for Scotland in Dublin on Saturday. He needs only four more to overtake his illustrious older brother Gavin's record of 61.

Gavin retired at the end of Scotland's bonny quarter-final defeat by New Zealand in the World Cup — with Scott scoring the final Scottish try by way of fraternal hail and farewell.

Scott admits it will be strange on Saturday lining up with the blueshirts without Gavin's exhortations behind him — although the fellow has by no means faded away, as last night's This Is Your Life testified.

Centre three-quarters come in all shapes and sizes, swagging and strut. Though international rugby's box of chocs allows no remotely soft centres any more, the perception still divides the breed between the silky-stepping Fancy Duns with delicate features and also the copper-tombed barndoor bristling with Desperate Dan chins and defiance. Centres can be either Guscotts or Gravelles.

Scotland's strapping Scott inclines to the latter. He is a solid four-square outside centre who tackles with a thrilling and meaningful resonance. Bob Dwyer, the coach, and the rest of Australia all agreed that the Lions would not have won the 1989 series

without, in the second and third Tests, the tackling of Hastings. What an open-side flanker he would have made, especially in his zipplap youth. Or a counter-attacking full-back even, had not his brother begged that jersey.

In fact, although Gavin is almost three years the older, they won their first caps on the same day — against France exactly 10 years ago today. John Rutherford, prince of fly-halves, recalls that day like yesterday: "Us senior caps were prowling the dressing room like nervous kittens, and those two kids were joking and jiggling about with a ball and not a care in the world."

The engaging Scott still palpably adores his game with that schoolboy's relish. He is a senior account executive over with an Edinburgh advertising agency, Barbers, but even from that exalted hive of hyperbole he scots with a dismissive chortle when you say his tumultuous match-saving tackle on Rory Underwood in the 1990 Grand Slam epic at Murrayfield was arguably the most important single tackle in the history of Scottish rugby.

"Nonsense, man. That means you never saw my best-ever tackle. It was in the primary sevens. I was 10 and playing for George Watson's College."

"The week before I'd seen a flying tackle on television. 'Eiy, I can try that,' I said. And sure enough this equally



Scott Hastings... 58th cap

Frank Keating gets to grips with Scotland's engaging and solid centre

wee laddie from Morrison's Academy sprints away. I have after him and cut him down with an absolute peach of a perfect thing. My very first tackle, and still my very best. I was so proud of myself."

C'mon, what about Underwood? That one is scored in the memory of every single soul in that throng. Scotland were gloriously ahead, but hanging on with fingernails as the pukka over-proud English swarmed at them from every point. Of a sudden, Underwood from no-

where sprang fulminantly on to a dummy ball through the middle. He seemed clear when Scott, having bought the dummy, checked in a blink like a cartoon cat, turned, recovered, and leaped back and across with truly valiant athleticism and splendour to scythe down the awful danger at its knees. It really was a moment deserving of historians' research.

"I remember every single one of my Underwood tackles," Scott says with the widest of grins. "Let me just read from my little black book." And he reaches inside his jacket pocket. "We got every one logged and listed here, most framed in gold-leaf paints. Well, he's a hell of a player, that Rory."

Sure, but be serious, you must remember that tackle of that stupendous tactics' research. "Of course I do. But I think you historians crack on about it too much, to be honest. I got Rory and stopped him, okay, but see it again and you'll see what I knew instinctively: that Gavin was behind me and he would have nailed him too."

"Unless, of course, Rory had stepped inside Gavin on his right foot. As every rugby player knows, if he'd done that he would have scored under the posts and England would have won and history rewritten." A lovely Celtic belly-laugh.

Talking of which, concentrate your mind because the old and close encounter of fra-

ternal friends and enemies has come round again. Scott first played at Dublin's Lansdowne Road all of 14 years ago, for Scotland Schools.

"I was captain and full-back. My now dear friend Brendan [Mullin] was there. We were drubbed 42-0. I presumed I'd never be back and would have to stick to cricket." (He played for Scottish Schools Under-16, slow left-arm twirler.)

But he did come back to Dublin with the thistle at his breast, and Saturday will mark his seventh visit. "And I've never lost there since. No that every single contest has not been ruinously hard. They are tough men."

"Our last two trips were wrecked as spectacles by howling gales. But it goes without saying that every contest has been utterly memorable atmospherically."

"They fancy their greater experience this time, but I know many of their players, which adds to the tingle, and the unvarying Dublin sense of occasion, the commitment, the passion, the crowd upping their boys' rampaging competitive dander, oh yes, the sheer and utter glorious crack of it all. It will be there once again on Saturday, won't it, with knobs on this time, I dare say."

Relishingly put. The Five Nations glory. What splendours in store to warm winter. Here we go again. Scott Hastings, This Is Your Life. Hooray for it.

Rugby League

Hughes out at Saints

Paul Fitzpatrick

ONLY four days after leaving his last job by Wigan in a marvellous Regal Trophy final at Huddersfield, St Helens have "parted company" with their coach Eric Hughes.

The players were said to be "shell-shocked" at his departure and Hughes, who had been in the post since January 1994, was reported to be taking legal advice.

His contract was due to run to the end of May but there had been mounting speculation that his job was under threat, with Sean McRae, an assistant coach at Canberra Raiders, touted as his possible successor.

David Howes, Saints' chief executive, said the timing of Hughes's departure was "most unfortunate" but had been due in part to the talk in the newspapers and elsewhere. He would not say whether Hughes had been dismissed or had resigned.

Howes said the club hoped a new coach would be designated in time for the Saturday week's Challenge Cup fourth-round match at Castleford. McRae would seem to be in pole position but John Monie, formerly coach at Wigan and now at Auckland Warriors, is also being linked with the vacancy.

Monie was brilliantly successful in his four seasons at Central Park, leading Wigan to four Premiership and four Challenge Cup successes. It would be the greatest irony if he were to move in at Knowsley Road.

John Dorahy, another former Wigan coach, Clive Griffiths, now hoping to succeed Brian Johnson at Warrington, and Phil Larder, the Keighley and England coach, might all be candidates for one of the game's most important posts.

But with the dazzling successful Wigan only a few miles down the road it is something of a poisoned chalice, as Hughes has found. His forte has been to bring into the first team many of the players that were under his control when he was in charge of the Academy side.

One supporter taking his seat for last night's match against London Broncos said he was "appalled and disgusted" at the news. Saints may take stronger criticism than that in coming days.

The St Helens centre Scott Gibbs faces a League disciplinary hearing in Leeds today after his dismissal for alleged use of the elbow late in Saturday's Regal Trophy final against Wigan. The Leeds prop Harvey Howard, sent off in midweek against Oldham, is also up before the committee.

Wigan to play at Twickers

THE Berin Wall fell years ago but only last night did Wigan start to breach the toughest rampart in British sport when they agreed to play rugby union at Twickenham — for nothing.

The newly renowned champions pronounced themselves "honoured" to accept the Rugby League's invitation to take up the RFU's offer of a place at this year's Middlesex Sevens on Saturday May 11.

The club will receive only the usual Middlesex Sevens appearance fee of £20,000 to donate to a nominated charity, probably local schools.

Wigan are former winners of rugby league's World Sevens title and their chairman Jack Robinson was hopeful of more silverware last night. "We like winning and we are not going to send a team that we don't think will win."

"Rugby union sevens is different from rugby league sevens; our sevens are played at 100 miles per hour, they play it about 65 miles per hour with fast bursts.

"We want to try and have a go."

Athletics

Hylton among embarrassment of riches

Stephen Barley

MARK HYLTON and Guy Bullock, two of Britain's most talented young athletes, team up in the 400 metres against Russia in Birmingham on Saturday week in the first major domestic indoor meeting of the season.

Both have been outstanding juniors. Bullock won the European junior title in San Sebastian in 1993 and Hylton emulated that achievement last year in Hungary.

The competition for the three Olympic 400m places this summer promises to be the fiercest of any event. Hyl-

ton and Bullock will be up against Mark Richardson, Roger Black, Du'aine Ladelle and Dave Grindley, with another talented youngster, Jamie Bulch, making up a magnificent seven.

Neil Cadby, who gained a noteworthy victory in a cross-country race over the frozen wastes of Durham last month, is given an early chance to impress on the track, having been selected for the 3,000m. Cadby, aged 20, improved his 1,500m time by seven seconds to 3:59.86 last year and may have an outside chance of reaching Atlanta.

In the women's shot Judy Oakes, aged 37, makes a re-

cord 73rd appearance, overtaking Verona Elder, who is now the British women's team manager.

Other athletes to watch include: 100m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 200m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 400m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 800m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 1,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 1,500m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 2,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 3,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 4,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 5,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 6,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 8,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 10,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 15,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 20,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 30,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 40,000m: S. Williams, D. Turner, A. Harcourt, G. Taylor, 50,000m: S. 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SportsGuardian

FA CUP THIRD-ROUND REPLAY

Newcastle United 2, Chelsea 2 (after 90 minutes)

Last-gasp Gullit hits 10-man Newcastle

David Lacey

NEWCASTLE United's early progress in the FA Cup began to look as inexorable as their surge towards the Premier League championship in last night's replay. But Ruud Gullit's 88th-minute equaliser took the tie into extra-time.

Earlier, Newcastle needed just two minutes to regain the lead, through the game's second penalty, after Chelsea had drawn level with the first, following the dismissal of Darren Peacock for the foul which had led to it. It was Newcastle's second red card in three games.

But for a misplaced goal-kick by Kharine in stoppage time at Stamford Bridge, astutely exploited by Albert and Ferdinand, Chelsea would have been contemplating a fourth-round tie at QPR instead of facing a Newcastle side that had won 12 times in succession at St James' Park.

Chelsea, moreover, had already lost at Newcastle this season, beaten by two goals from Ferdinand in September. Yet Kevin Keegan's players knew they had to do more than just turn up.

Certainly Chelsea's start was impressive last night, full of composed passing and relaxed movement. Gullit, Wise and Petrescu were immediate influences. Within three minutes Peacock had to move quickly to stop Petrescu and Wise threatening.

Chelsea had Hitchcock in goal rather than Kharine, but he looked none too secure early on, coming out to meet Ferdinand only to grab thin

air as he tried to snatch the ball from the forward's feet. Fortunately for Chelsea, Ferdinand lost his footing.

This moment apart, Chelsea looked the more compact as they continued to attack quickly on the break, with Gullit's searching passes opening up the wings for Phelan's pace and Petrescu's wit. Meanwhile Duberry resumed his watch on Ferdinand.

Not to the extent of cramping Ferdinand for space outside the penalty area, however. Ferdinand had plenty of room when Ginola's header found him some 20 yards from goal, but the shot was wild.

For all that Newcastle carried the greater fire-power — a point well illustrated in the 21st minute. First Petrescu, sent through by Wise and looking outside, caused Srnicek no great problems with a cross-shot. Then Ferdinand, again set up by Ginola, unleashed an emphatic shot which hit a post.

The contrast was evident again approaching the half-hour when Phelan ran at the Newcastle defence and Wise and Gullit took the movement on, only for Spencer to find insufficient power to defeat Srnicek. In the next instant a glorious ball from Gullit found Hughes in space between Peacock and Albert. But Hughes could not find the space to shoot.

Beardsley played relatively deep for Newcastle last night but his influence was no less profound. Only a tenacious tackle by Myers prevented Beardsley's pass sending Ferdinand between himself and Duberry and the moment soon proved portentous.

Three minutes before half-time Ferdinand, now bursting square across the penalty arc, was caught late by Lee. A caution followed. Albert drove the free-kick low towards goal and a generous deflection off the wall left Hitchcock helpless.

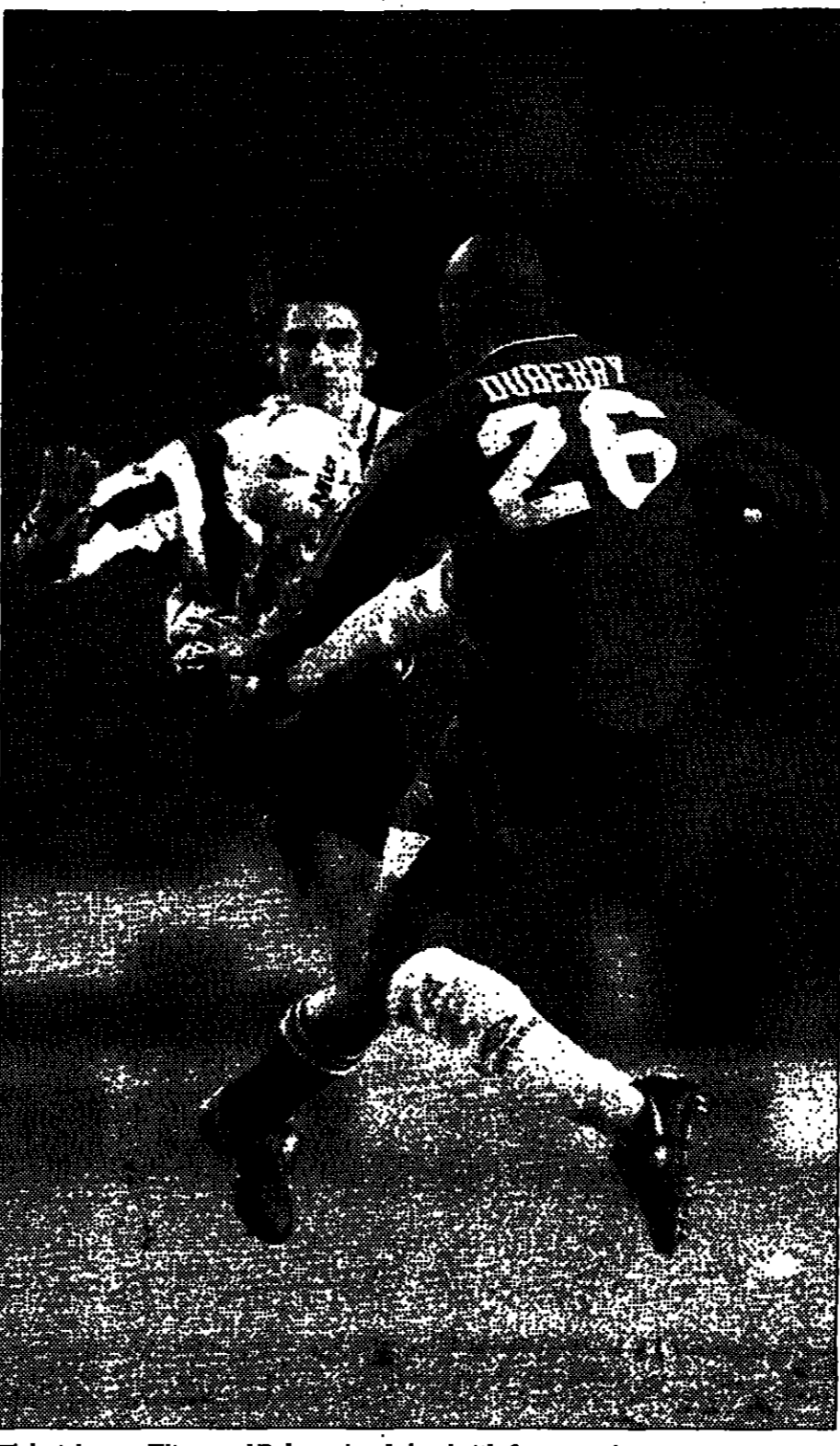
Chelsea had had slightly the better of the first half territorially yet Newcastle's goal still had an air of inevitability about it. So did the way they began the second half, with Myers lucky to stay on the field after bringing down Ferdinand, this time when he was about to break for goal.

The thought clearly preyed on Myers's mind as Ferdinand released Kitson just over a minute later. As the Chelsea defender tried to jockey the Newcastle striker out of a scoring position, Kitson unleashed a shot which Hitchcock just managed to touch over.

On the hour Chelsea came back into the tie — briefly as it transpired. Spencer, sprinting into the area, was tripped by Peacock, who had already been cautioned for dissent and was now sent off. Wise's penalty brought the scores level, and Chelsea rejoiced for all of two minutes.

Then, Ginola lobbed the ball into the goalmouth from the left-hand byline, Lee was adjudged to have pushed Kitson over from behind, and Beardsley restored Newcastle's lead with another penalty.

Newcastle United: Srnicek, Barton, Peacock, Albert, Beardsley, Watson, Beardsley, Clark, Ginola, Wise, Ferdinand.
Chelsea: Hitchcock, Duberry, Lee, Myers, Petrescu, Newton, Gullit, Wise, Phelan, Spencer, Hughes.
Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley).



High stakes... Kitson and Duberry juggle in a battle for possession. MICHAEL STEELE

Americans don't give a XXX who wins



Ian Katz

IT WILL not be played for a week but the headline writers have already declared Super Bowl XXX a classic. The Dallas Cowboys versus the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Team of the Nineties versus the Team of the Seventies, the Big Three of the Big D against the Wall of Steel, a replay of the great Super Bowl clashes of 1976 and 1979. At last a real contender from the long-outgunned AFC.

The trouble is, no one actually thinks that. What most Americans really think is: the Most Obnoxious team in football versus the Most Boring; flash, money and arrogance versus the winners of the effort prize; Cowboys to win by 12 points. In short, Super Bowl XXX will be, as usual, the Snooze Bowl.

That the Cowboys are often described as America's Team is one of the great sporting ironies. It is true that they sell more merchandise than any other side — about a quarter of all NFL goods. It is also true that the Big Three of the quarterback Troy Aikman, running back Emmitt Smith and wide receiver Michael Irvin comprise the most formidable strike force in American football, perhaps one of the best ever. But I have yet to meet an American outside the Longhorn state who doesn't hate the big-mouthed 'Boys.

Much of Dallas's image problem is owed to the team's brash owner Jerry Jones, who symbolises American sport's complete submission to lucre. But there is something repellent even about the great Irvin, who dances a little too long after scoring a touchdown, and about Aikman, who behaved as though he had survived an assassination attempt when a female admirer bounded on to the field during practice.

I shall be rooting for the hard men of blue-collar Pittsburgh, but with precious little enthusiasm. Despite acquiring attractive players such as the wide receiver Yancey Thigpen and the endlessly versatile Kordell Stewart, the Steelers still pride themselves at doing the ugly things: blitzing opposing quarterbacks, closing down sparking offensive teams, smashing through defensive lines with their pudgy running back Bam Morris.

The Steelers' bearded quarterback Neil O'Donnell even looks boring. His watchword is "patience" and his most notable achievement, throwing the lowest number of interceptions of any quarterback this season, says more about the risible number of passes he threw than their accuracy. He didn't throw an interception in Sunday's battle with the Indianapolis Colts, but no one will remember his 25-of-41 passing record for the game.

There is a school of thought that the Steelers may be just the team to beat Dallas, champions in 1998 and 1999; that they might bore Deion "Prime Time" Sanders and the Big Three into submission. But not even the just-lauded Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher seems convinced. "The Steelers are going to show up and we're going to play hard for 60 minutes," he declared.

THE tragedy of last Sunday's AFC and NFC championship games was that they offered a glimmer of hope. Green Bay and Indianapolis were two of the most attractive underdogs to reach the last four in recent years: the Packers, a once great team with a dreamy quarterback, and fans so obsessive that they wear giant wedges of cheese on their heads; the Colts, scrappy, unloved and so improbable that even their quarterback Jim Harbaugh referred to them as a bunch of "ragamuffins".

They were also, coincidentally, or perhaps not, two of the most religious teams in the league. The Packers' Reggie White is a lay preacher who miraculously recovered from a serious hamstring injury after all of Green Bay prayed for him. Harbaugh looks like a matinee idol but speaks like a born-again evangelist, thanking Christ profusely in every post-game interview.

Maybe God wasn't watching the game on Sunday. It seemed only fitting that the Colts' miraculous season ended with a so-called "Hall Mary", a looping, desperate pass into the end zone in the dying seconds of the match. It doesn't surprise sportswriters gleefully observed, there was no immaculate Reception.

England crash in one-day series

ENGLAND lost the one-day international in Durban yesterday, giving South Africa an unassailable 4-1 lead in the series with two games still to play.

To compound the tourists' misery their vice-captain Alec Stewart will miss the rest of the series after suffering a hand injury in the five-wicket defeat. Stewart, who has been plagued recently by injuries to his fingers, split the webbing between two of them when attempting to catch Jacques Kallis's lofted drive.

"It's a clean cut but I should be available for the World Cup if selected," he said. "I only picked it up two or three yards short but that's no excuse: the ball was in the air and should have been caught."

Stewart's misadventure was one of several as South Africa coasted to their series win, which follows their 1-0 victory in the Test series.

Mike Selvey, page 15

Here's one statement that doesn't tell the whole story.

Did you buy your home insurance from your bank or building society? If so, your mortgage statement will probably include details of your home insurance payments as well.

What it won't tell you is that your lender could be taking up to 30% commission on that insurance. There is no reason to pay this — most of the time buildings and contents insurance don't need to be with your mortgage lender. By buying insurance direct from us you can make significant savings and maintain similar high levels of cover.

Call now for more details. You can even switch over the phone and join the 750,000 householders who have saved money with Direct Line Insurance.

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0161 839 8877 MANCHESTER
0113 246 8877 LEEDS
0141 226 8877 GLASGOW
0121 236 8877 BIRMINGHAM
0117 945 8877 BRISTOL

Guardian Crossword No 20,552
Set by Rufus

Across

- Naughty ladies men dream of (6)
- Treat raw spillage seen in the river (5,3)
- Use a paperweight and save money? (4,3,5)
- Sallies follow a direction to arms (6)
- An incoming charge (9,3)
- Ball out in the Indian Ocean (4)
- Translated oriental tale (6)
- He wrote comedies many never go out to see (6)
- As far as one is able (2,2)
- Old maid? (7-5)
- Start breeding a bird dog (6)
- Forgave and cut the fellow in (6)
- He values a vessel with an arrangement of roses (6)

Down

- American combination of bets (6)
- Exploit that should be witnessed (4)
- Attractive method of preventing injustice? (9)
- Fumes capable of causing a lot of damage (6)
- It's swinging in the rain (10,5)
- See 9 across
- French city one gets confused with Ur (5)
- Quite enough out of school (10)
- Glasses or beer-mats need changing (10)
- Try to land (5,4)
- Ill-temper shown by a girl in a muddle (8)
- Green party finally contrived to get power (6)

21 Unsure how to combat the shivers (5)
22 Field what is sown, say (4)

Solution tomorrow

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